



IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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July 25, 2023
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**OIG ALONG WITH THE ASSESSOR'S OFFICE AND THE BUREAU OF TREASURY
IDENTIFY \$187,000 IN ADDITIONAL PROPERTY TAX REVENUE OWED TO THE
CITY**

The Office of Inspector General (OIG) provides an independent and objective assessment of government policies, programs, and operations by conducting audits, evaluations, and investigations. Since June 2021, the OIG has issued numerous letters to the Orleans Parish Assessor's Office concerning residential properties which continued to receive a homestead exemption and senior freeze reduction despite the listed homeowner reportedly being deceased. As of July 2023, the total number of residential properties submitted to the Assessor's Office for 2021, 2022 and 2023 is 172.

For the first and second quarters of 2022, the City of New Orleans Bureau of Treasury has issued 26 Revised Real Estate Tax Bills concerning residential properties that the OIG identified as having benefited from homestead exemptions and a senior freeze reduction, despite the listed homeowners reportedly being deceased. The Assessor's Office has also removed the homestead exemptions and senior freeze reductions for these properties. According to the Bureau of Treasury, the City of New Orleans is due more than \$187,000 in additional property tax revenue from these 26 properties.

In these times of increasing threats and limited resources, is incumbent upon the Assessor's Office and the Bureau of Treasury to combine their resources to efficiently identify and mitigate the threat of Homestead Exemption fraud.

Edward Michel, Inspector General

For information on OIG initiatives, including recent reports concerning Homestead Exemption fraud and other work products, please visit the newly re-designed OIG website at www.nolaogig.gov.