

MONTHLY REPORT

JUNE 2023



OIG

NEW ORLEANS
OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL

EDWARD MICHEL, CIG
INSPECTOR GENERAL

ADMINISTRATION DIVISION



1,960

Number of registered Twitter followers

ADMINISTRATION

The Office Manager is responsible for the following ongoing tasks:

- Human Resources
 - Coordinating the hiring process
- Finance
 - Managing and refining the OIG budget
- Procurement Process
 - Communicating with OIG vendors
 - Processing requisitions to create purchase orders
 - Overseeing the timely payment of OIG expenditures
- Operations
 - Coordinating with the OIG's landlord and various City departments on administrative matters

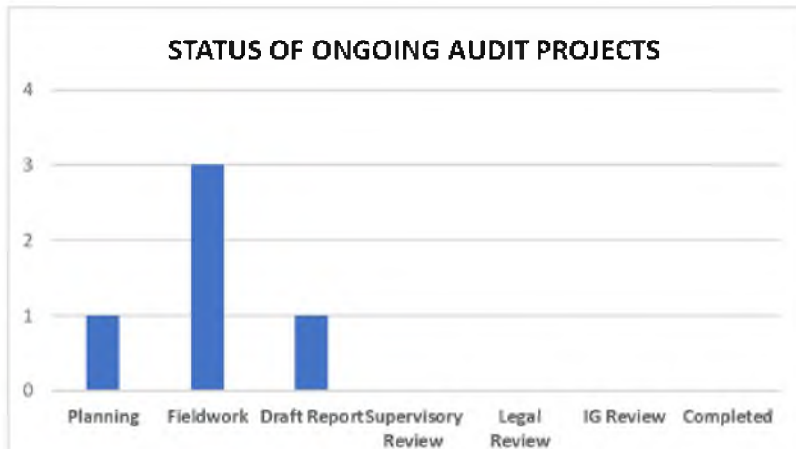
INFORMATION SECURITY

The OIG Information Security Specialist is responsible for the following tasks to maintain the OIG's information technology (IT) integrity

- Technical Support
- Hardware and Software Updates
- Communication and Coordination
- Consultation for IT Purchases

AUDIT & REVIEW DIVISION

The Audit and Review Division conducts financial audits, attestations, compliance, and performance audits of City programs and operations. Auditors test for appropriate internal controls and compliance with laws, regulations and other requirements.



The Audit and Review Division has the following projects in process:

- Wisner Fund
- Orleans Parish Sheriffs Office
- Short Term Rentals
- Safety and Permits Third Party Contractors
- New Orleans East Hospital Credit Card

Project Phase Descriptions:

Planning - includes background research, data gathering, initial interviews, and/or internal controls assessment.

Fieldwork - includes data and statistical analyses, interviews, testing of procedures, onsite observations, and/or physical inspections.

Draft Report - includes data and statistical reviews, documenting fieldwork results, initial report writing, revisions and internal Quality Assurance Review (QAR) prior to supervisory review.

Supervisory Review - includes the review by both Deputy Inspector General and First Assistant Inspector General to ensure sufficiency and appropriateness of evidence, adequate fieldwork procedures, and proper conclusions, content, presentation and readability.

Legal Review - Report review by in-house General Counsel and/or outside Legal Counsel to ensure appropriate and proper legal citations and/or interpretations.

IG Review - Report review by the Inspector General based on corrections and recommended changes resulting from the Legal Review.

30-Day Comment Period - 30-day deadline for the department to review the draft report and submit management responses for inclusion in the final report.

MEASURING PROGRESS

AUDIT AND REVIEW DIVISION

The following information provides a summary of the Audit Division's project phase and a summary of the audit objectives.

Project Name	Project Phase ¹	Anticipated ² Completion Date
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Wisner Fund	Draft Report	Ongoing
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Summary of Objectives: The OIG will be releasing a letter explaining why the 2020 Extension of the Wisner Trust was not proper, violating City Code and prior court rulings concerning the Trust.

Orleans Parish Sheriffs Office	Fieldwork	Ongoing
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Summary of Objectives: The purpose of the audit is to evaluate the operating effectiveness of the Orleans Parish Sheriff Office's controls and expenditures related to payroll and paid details.

Short-Term Rentals	Fieldwork	Ongoing
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Summary of Objectives: The OIG will be releasing a letter suggesting that the City increase its efforts to levy fines on illegal short-term rentals.

Safety and Permits Third Party Contractors	Planning	Ongoing
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Summary of Objectives: The purpose of the audit is determine the adequacy of S&P policies and procedures related to Third Party Inspections and verify that residential inspections performed by Third Party Inspectors were in compliance with those policies and procedures.

Footnotes:

1 - Project phase determination is based on the objective(s), scope, and methodology for each project. It is not determined by a standard set of hours and/or phase deadline.

2 - The completion date may be re-evaluated if necessary.

MEASURING PROGRESS

AUDIT AND REVIEW DIVISION

The following information provides a summary of the Audit Division's project phase and a summary of the audit objectives.

Project Name	Project Phase ¹	Anticipated ² Completion Date
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New Orleans East Hospital
Credit Card

Fieldwork

Ongoing

Summary of Objectives: The purpose of the audit is to determine whether New Orleans East Hospital credit card purchase were business-related and allowed by law, and that these purchases followed relevant agency policies.

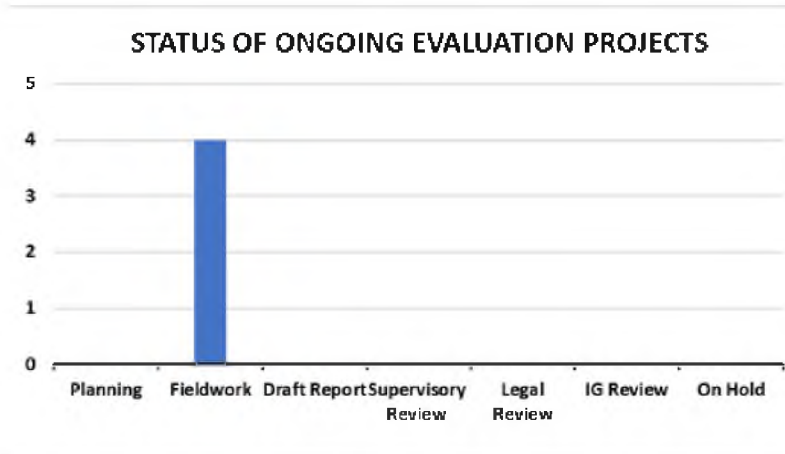
Footnotes:

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INSPECTIONS & EVALUATIONS DIVISION

The Inspections and Evaluations Division works to increase the efficiency, effectiveness, transparency, and accountability of City programs, agencies, and operations. Evaluators conduct independent, objective, empirically based and methodically sound inspections, evaluations, and performance reviews.



The Inspections & Evaluations Division has the following projects in process:

- New Orleans Police Department (NOPD) Violent Crime Response Analysis
- City of New Orleans Employee Time and Attendance Reporting
- EMD Fuel Dispensing Follow-Up
- Sewerage and Water Board Water Loss Control

Project Phase Descriptions:

Planning - includes background research, data gathering, initial interviews, and/or internal controls assessment.

Fieldwork - includes data and statistical analyses, interviews, testing of procedures, onsite observations, and/or physical inspections.

Draft Report - includes data and statistical reviews, documenting fieldwork results, initial report writing, revisions and internal Quality Assurance Review (QAR) prior to supervisory review.

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30-Day Comment Period - 30-day deadline for the department to review the draft report and submit management responses for inclusion in the final report.

MEASURING PROGRESS

INSPECTIONS AND EVALUATIONS DIVISION

The following information provides a summary of the Inspections and Evaluations Division's project phase and a summary of the each project's objectives.

Project Name	Project Phase ¹	Anticipated ² Completion Date
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City of New Orleans Employee Time and Attendance Reporting	Fieldwork	Ongoing
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Summary of Objectives: To determine whether the City has policies, procedure, and controls to ensure that Time and Attendance is reported accurately.

NOPD Violent Crime Response Analysis	Fieldwork	Ongoing
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Summary of Objectives: To assess the NOPD's response to violent crimes in the City in relation to best practices and industry standards.

EMD Fuel Dispensing Follow-Up	Fieldwork	Ongoing
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Summary of Objectives: This follow-up evaluation seeks to determine if the City implemented the corrective actions to which it agreed in June 2016 in response to the OIG's initial evaluation, and whether the deficiencies identified in the original report still exist.

Sewerage & Water Board Water Loss Control	Fieldwork	Ongoing
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Summary of Objectives: To evaluate S&WB's policies and practices related to water loss control management.

Footnotes:

1 - Project phase determination is based on the objective(s), scope, and methodology for each project. It is not determined by a standard set of hours and/or phase deadline.

2 - The completion date may be re-evaluated if necessary.

INVESTIGATIONS DIVISION

ADMINISTRATIVE INVESTIGATIONS (JUNE HIGHLIGHTS)

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 properties.

Issued four requests for documents in ongoing investigations.

The media has reported that the OIG took possession of the cellphone and computer of the Director of the Orleans Parish Communications District in connection with an ongoing investigation.

Issued a referral to the Department of Code Enforcement regarding fines imposed to an individual in error.

Issued a letter and related documents to the Assessor's Office concerning 25 residential properties which continued to receive a homestead exemption and senior freeze reduction despite the listed homeowner reportedly being deceased. The total number of residential properties submitted for 2023 is 75. Assessor's Office acknowledged receipt of the letter.

INVESTIGATIONS DIVISION

CRIMINAL INVESTIGATIONS (JUNE HIGHLIGHTS)

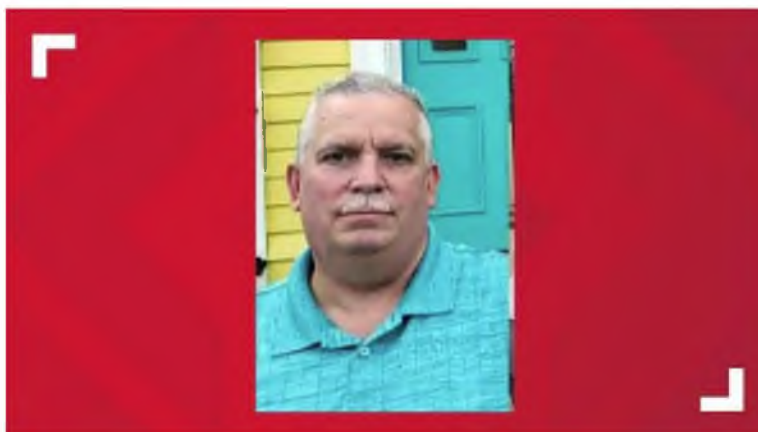
On June 29, 2023, Jay Arnold, the former utility services administrator at the S&WB, who was charged with embezzlement by a government agent pled guilty to that charge. Arnold was accused of stealing cash that belonged to the Sewerage and Water Board. A bill of information alleged that Arnold would instruct plumbers to provide him with payments for plumbing permits and that Arnold would keep the payments for his own use. Arnold, a resident of Harahan, ran the city of New Orleans' plumbing inspections and permit division. It was the only construction permitting office housed at the Sewerage & Water Board instead of City Hall. Arnold was in charge of all city plumbing inspections even though he had not been licensed to do inspections in Louisiana since at least 2016.

The charged offense of Theft from an Agency Receiving Federal Funds is punishable by up to ten years' imprisonment followed by up to three years' supervised release, a fine of up to \$250,000, and a \$100 mandatory special assessment fee.

Former top S&WB plumbing official pleads guilty to stealing \$100,000

The FBI raided Arnold's office in 2021 and seized permits, inspection records.

By DAVID HAMMER | WWL-TV Jun 29, 2023

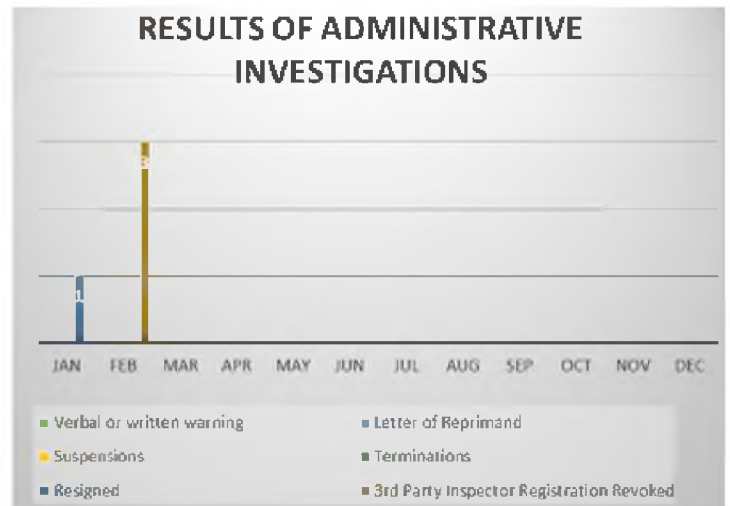
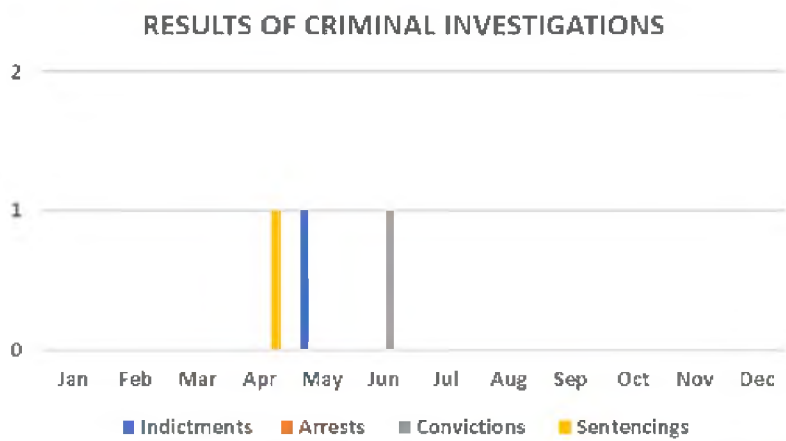
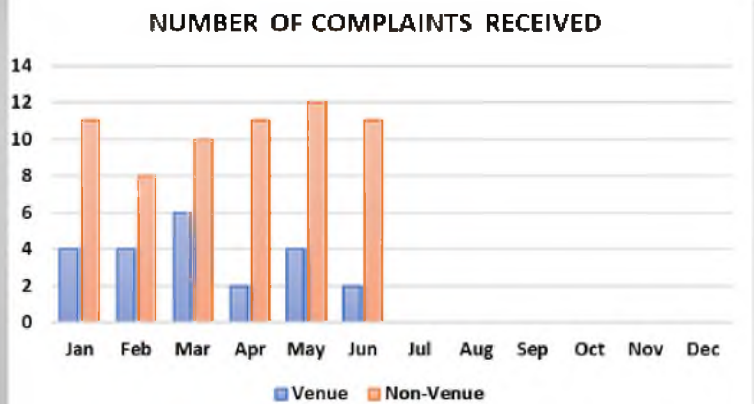
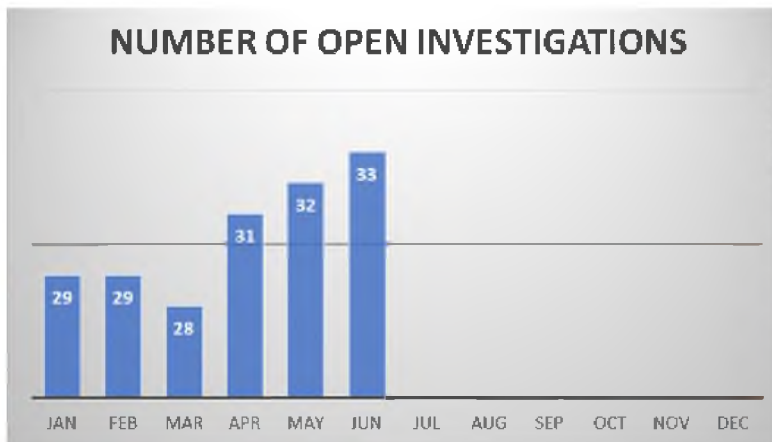


Jay Arnold, former New Orleans Sewerage & Water Board employee
Photo courtesy WWL-TV

MEASURING PROGRESS

INVESTIGATIONS DIVISION

The Investigations Division conducts criminal and administrative investigations involving City of New Orleans employees, contractors, and vendors that receive City funds. Investigators also work with local, state, and federal partners to conduct joint investigations. The Investigations Division is also available to provide fraud awareness training to City employees and to engage in other outreach programs with businesses and citizens.



Venue: Matters that the OIG has the jurisdiction to investigate

Non-Venue: Matters outside of the OIG's jurisdiction

2023 BUDGET

Total 2023 Appropriation \$ 4,020,437

Expenditures	Spent YTD	Projected Expenditures FY 2023
Personnel	\$ 1,273,679	\$ 3,209,430*
Operating	\$ 242,237	\$ 743,368
Total	\$ 1,515,916	\$ 3,952,798
Remaining Balance	\$ 2,504,521	\$ 67,639

**The OIG is actively hiring to fill the following vacant positions: Social Media Manager, Criminal Investigator IV, Forensic Auditor, Inspector & Evaluator III.

As of 7/1/2023

OIG ON SOCIAL MEDIA



New Orleans OIG @NOLA0IG · Jun 8

The New Orleans Office of Inspector General welcomed student interns this week to join the ranks of dedicated City employees to mitigate fraud, waste and abuse in City programs.



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OIG ON SOCIAL MEDIA



New Orleans OIG @NOLAIG · Jun 2

Members of the New Orleans OIG attended the Association of Certified Fraud Examiners seminar regarding Cyber-Enabled Financial Fraud taught by Felton L. Worrell, Technical Special Agent, US Secret Service. Special thanks to the United States Secret Service.

[@SecretService](#)

