

# **MONTHLY REPORT**

**NOVEMBER 2023**



# **OIG**

**NEW ORLEANS  
OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL**

**EDWARD MICHEL, CIG  
INSPECTOR GENERAL**

# ADMINISTRATION DIVISION

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# 1,995

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

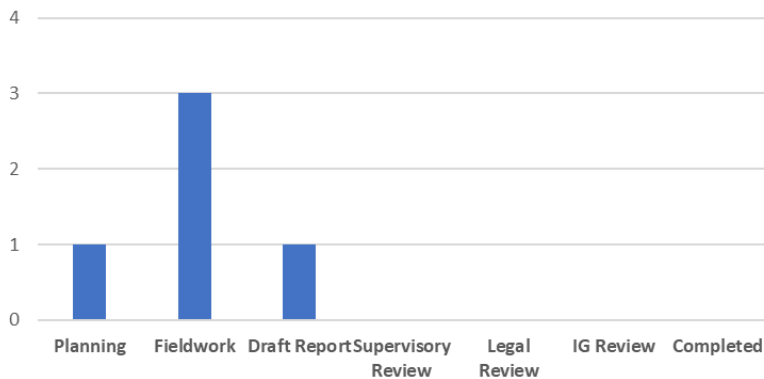
The OIG Information Security Specialist is responsible for the following tasks to maintain the OIG's information technology (IT) integrity

- 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.

**STATUS OF ONGOING AUDIT PROJECTS**



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

- Orleans Parish Sheriffs Office
- 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 <sup>1</sup>	Anticipated <sup>2</sup> Completion Date
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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.

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.

New Orleans East Hospital Credit Card	Fieldwork	Ongoing
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**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.

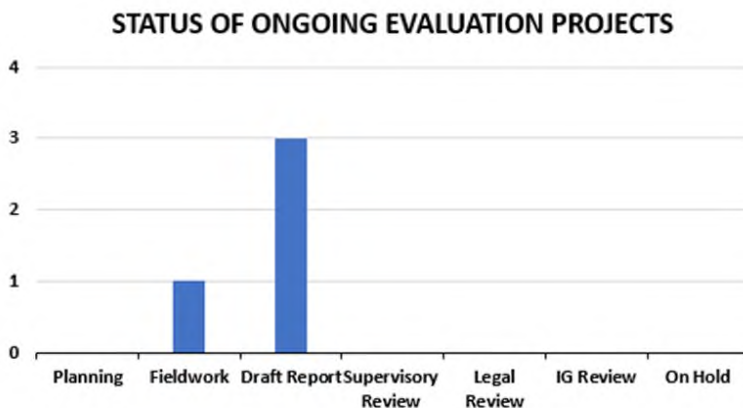
**Footnotes:**

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.

# 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:

- OPCD Hexagon Contract
- 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 <sup>1</sup>	Anticipated <sup>2</sup> Completion Date
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City of New Orleans Employee Time and Attendance Reporting	30-Day Comment Period	December 15, 2023
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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.

OPCD Hexagon Contract	Fieldwork	Ongoing
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**Summary of Objectives:** The purpose of the evaluation is to analyze the process used to procure Hexagon On Call Records, review the use of public funds in the project, and assess whether the product was suitable to meet public needs.

EMD Fuel Dispensing Follow-Up	Drafting	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	Drafting	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.

# INVESTIGATION DIVISION

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## ADMINISTRATIVE INVESTIGATIONS (NOVEMBER HIGHLIGHTS)

Issued a Report of Investigation regarding the use of hotel rooms by the Orleans PARISH Sheriff's Office during Mardi Gras. Information was received alleging that the Orleans Parish Sheriff's Office (OPSO) improperly secured and paid for hotel rooms at the Omni Royal Orleans Hotel, located at 621 St. Louis St., New Orleans, LA 70130, in the French Quarter to house OPSO Command Staff during Mardi Gras 2023. The complaint also alleged rooms were left vacant by other staff members.

Based upon the review of records obtained from the Omni, a total of 90 room nights were secured and paid for by the OPSO. In the OIG analysis of the Omni records and interviews conducted of OPSO employees, 37 hotel nights were occupied by the OPSO Command Staff. Four employees stayed six nights or more, three employees did not occupy a room at all, and six employees stayed three nights or less in a room secured and paid for by the OPSO.

Issued a Report of Investigation regarding an investigation into procurement practices and activities involving the Mayor's Office of Utilities (the "Utilities Office"), including without limitation the selection of Smart+Connected NOLA for smart cities and public Wi-Fi deployment in New Orleans. The OIG recommended that all City agreements, including pro bono MOUs, be uploaded into BRASS. In addition, the OIG recommends that all City agreements should include the OIG cooperation clause which requires the Contractor to provide the Office of Inspector General with documents and information as requested. Failure to comply with such requests shall constitute a material breach of the contract. The OIG also recommends that the City should require companies and persons who volunteer their services to the City to complete the same annual Louisiana Ethics training that is mandatory for public employees pursuant to La. R.S. 42:1170.

Issued 2 Requests for Documents in ongoing investigations.

Issued 2 letters to the S&WB regarding a possible billing error of a customer.

# INVESTIGATION DIVISION

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## **CRIMINAL INVESTIGATIONS (NOVEMBER HIGHLIGHTS)**

Issued a Report of Investigation which reported the former OPCD Director, Tyrell Morris, was involved in a vehicle accident while operating an OPCD vehicle and that the accident was not properly reported to include the failure to adhere to the submission of a drug and alcohol test, in violation of OPCD policy. Allegations later arose from local news reports that changes were made to the OPCD Standard Operating Procedure Number 1.3.1 (SOP), which required OPCD employees involved in a vehicle accident with an OPCD vehicle undergo drug and alcohol test. Local media outlets also reported that changes were made to the SOP after the accident occurred. The alleged changes to the SOP included added language which lowered the standard required for drug and alcohol test for OPCD employees involved in a vehicle accident while operating an OPCD vehicle

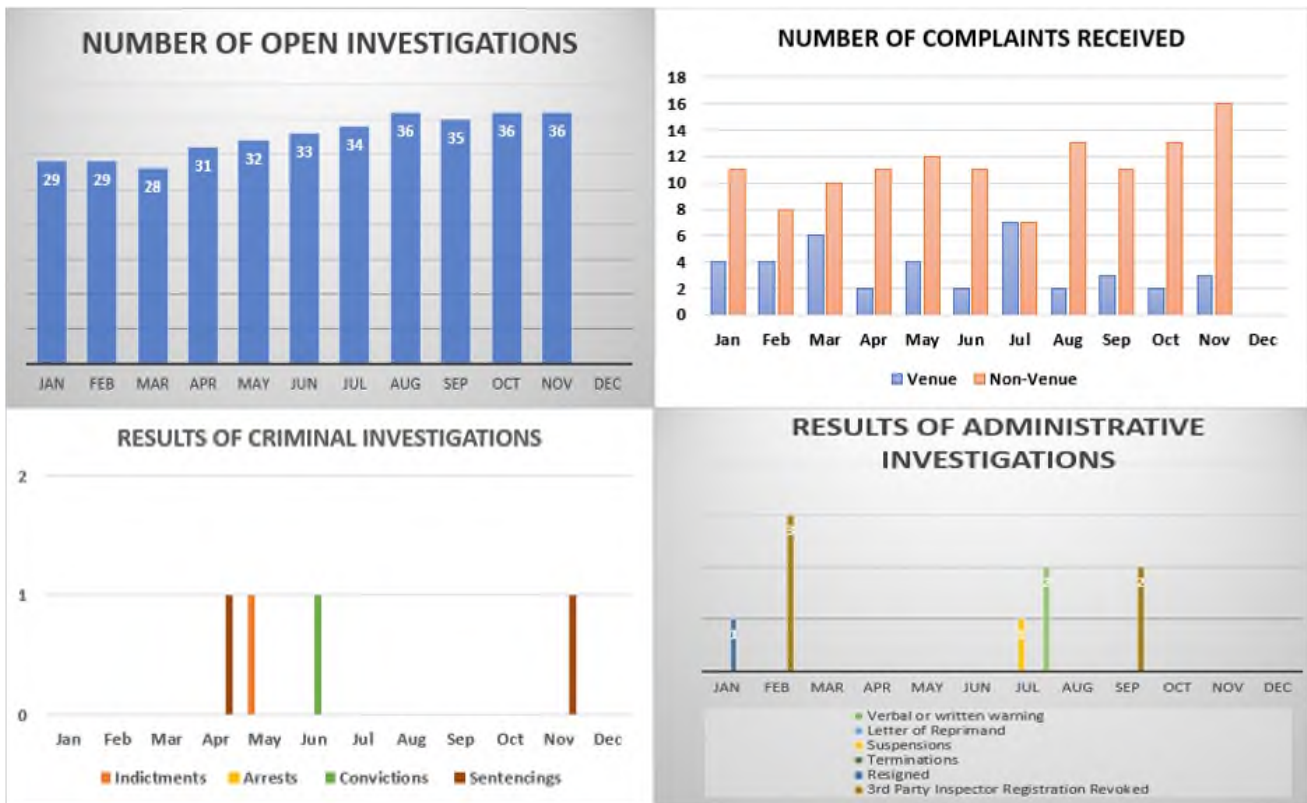
Former S&WB employee Jay James Arnold was sentenced on November 15, 2023, for Theft from an Agency Receiving Federal Funds. United States District Judge Jane Triche Milazzo sentenced Arnold to four years of probation, 90 days of which are to be served under home confinement, and restitution in the amount of \$108,290. Arnold engaged in a theft scheme while employed as a Utility Services Administrator for the Sewerage and Water Board of New Orleans (S&WB). Beginning in approximately 2012, and continuing until in or about November 2021, Arnold stole S&WB funds by causing the S&WB to issue plumbing permits when it had not received the fees required for the issuance of those permits. Arnold did this by instructing plumbers to provide him directly with payments for the fees. Arnold would then keep the payments for his personal use and cause the S&WB to issue the permits without the S&WB having received the required fees.



# 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 MONTHLY BUDGET

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**Total 2023 Appropriation \$ 4,020,437**

<b>Expenditures</b>	<b>Spent YTD</b>
<b>Personnel</b>	<b>\$ 2,387,881</b>
<b>Operating</b>	<b>\$ 607,173</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 2,995,054</b>
<b>Remaining Balance</b>	<b>\$ 1,025,383</b>

# OIG ON SOCIAL MEDIA

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**New Orleans OIG** @NOLAOIG · Nov 16

The OIG concluded the ROI concerning the former OPCD Directors' involvement in a vehicle accident. The accident was not correctly reported, and there was a failure to adhere to the submission of a drug and alcohol test, in violation of OPCD policy.

[nolaoig.gov/investigations/](https://nolaoig.gov/investigations/)



## REPORT OF INVESTIGATION

Investigation of Vehicle Accident of Orleans Parish Communication District Director May 7, 2023.

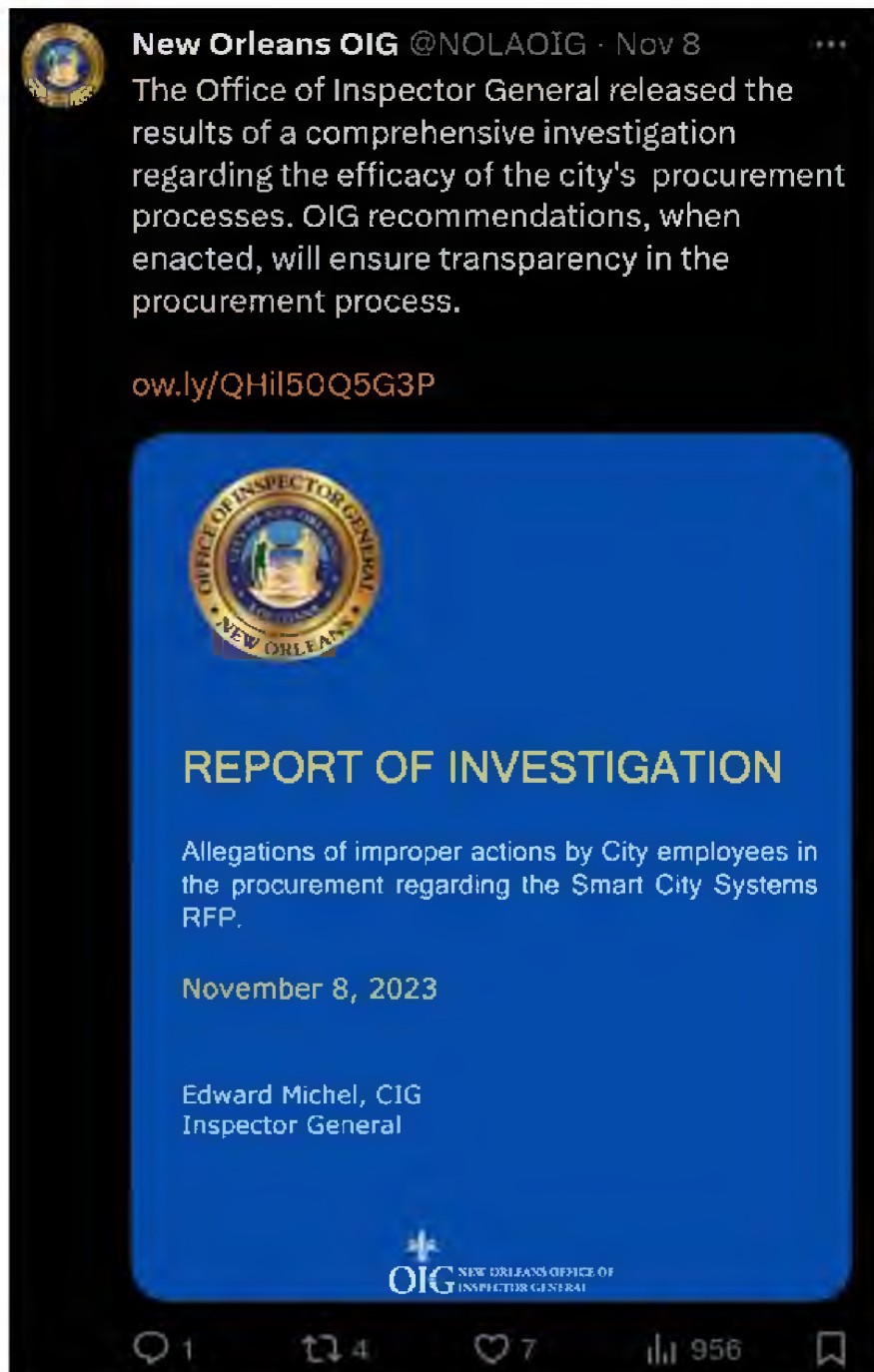
November 16, 2023

Edward Michel, CIG  
Inspector General

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# OIG ON SOCIAL MEDIA

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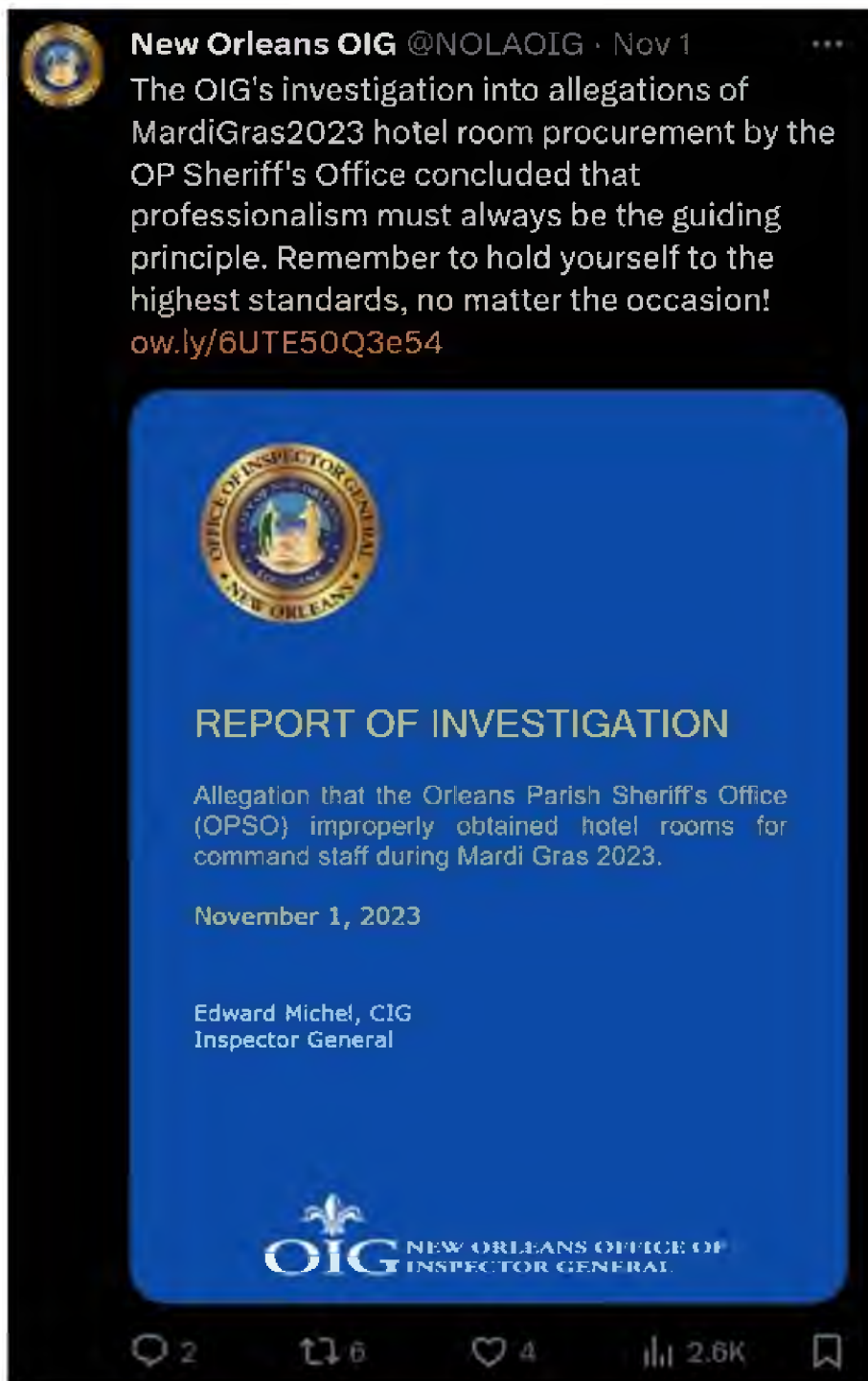
# OIG ON SOCIAL MEDIA


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# OIG ON SOCIAL MEDIA

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 **New Orleans OIG** @NOLAIG · Nov 1

The OIG's investigation into allegations of MardiGras2023 hotel room procurement by the OP Sheriff's Office concluded that professionalism must always be the guiding principle. Remember to hold yourself to the highest standards, no matter the occasion!  
[ow.ly/6UTE50Q3e54](https://ow.ly/6UTE50Q3e54)




### REPORT OF INVESTIGATION

Allegation that the Orleans Parish Sheriff's Office (OPSO) improperly obtained hotel rooms for command staff during Mardi Gras 2023.

November 1, 2023

Edward Michel, CIG  
Inspector General



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