

NEW ORLEANS OFFICE OF
INSPECTOR GENERAL



Annual REPORT

2023

EDWARD MICHEL, CIG
Inspector General

nolaoig.gov
[twitter/X @NOLAOIG](https://twitter.com/NOLAOIG)
facebook.com/nolaoig
[instagram @neworleansoig](https://instagram.com/neworleansoig)



Table of Contents

This report complies with City Code Sec. 2-1120(9), which directs the Inspector General to “report annually to the Ethics Review Board on the activities of the Office of Inspector General for the preceding calendar year.” Copies of the report are to be distributed to the Mayor, City Council, the media, and the public according to the ordinance’s directives.

- 3** Letter to the Ethics Review Board
- 4** Message from the Inspector General
- 5** Profile & Mission
- 6** Impact Overview
- 7** 2023 Reports
 - 8** Released in 2023
 - 9** Commitment
 - 10** Dedicated Staff
 - 11** Partnerships & Collaboration
 - 12** Risk Assessment
 - 13** Audit & Review
 - 16** Inspections & Evaluations
 - 19** Investigations
 - 28** Administration
 - 29** Information Technology
 - 31** Community Engagment
 - 35** OIG Citizens Academy
 - 36** Proposed Projects 2024

Dear members of the New Orleans Ethics Review Board,

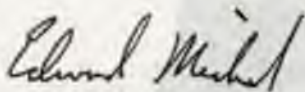
Pursuant to Section 2-1120(9) of the Code of Ordinances of the City of New Orleans, the Office of Inspector General is privileged to provide you with a copy of our 2023 Annual Report. The Annual Report summarizes the full scope of work and other activities engaged in by the OIG during the previous calendar year.

The 2023 Annual Report highlights our office's 55% increase in productivity from 2022, which includes 17 Reports and Public letters, and is the office's most productive year to date. In addition to the multiple reports issued by our office, we have also identified more than \$4.2 Million dollars in potential savings and/or economic loss prevented in 2023 while keeping a watchful eye over more than \$10.5 Billion in City assets, all of which was accomplished with an operating budget of \$3.2 Million. This Report also highlights the professionalism, dedication, and quality of the reports prepared by the OIG staff. This Annual Report is indicative of the OIG's commitment to preventing fraud, waste, abuse, and public corruption through education and awareness.

This Annual Report demonstrates the OIG's achievement in fulfilling our statutory responsibilities including the assessment of risks across various City agencies. Highlights from the Annual Report provide potential economic loss prevented (PELP), potential savings, and questioned costs identified by the OIG's findings and recommendations in 2023.

Thank you for your support and the work you do to ensure the success of the OIG. I also extend our sincere appreciation to the City departments, agencies, boards, and commissions, as well as external stakeholders that support our efforts to mitigate fraud, waste, and abuse.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Edward Michel".

Edward Michel, CIG
Inspector General

MESSAGE FROM THE INSPECTOR GENERAL

In 2022, Department of Defense Inspector General Glenn Fine highlighted the plight of inspector generals in his published article titled “The Most Important Public Servants You’ve Never Heard of”. With the origination and dissemination of seventeen evaluations, letters, and investigations, New Orleans OIG personnel have worked tirelessly to change this narrative and I am excited to share our successes in this annual report.

The 24 dedicated employees of the OIG continue to promote accountability and transparency in New Orleans City Government and this report is reflective of the attorneys, auditors, evaluators, investigators and professional support personnel who dedicate their service to ensure success in our mission. Our work exemplifies the OIG’s commitment to preventing fraud, waste, abuse, and public corruption through education and awareness. In addition to the multiple reports issued by our office, we have also identified more than \$4.2 Million dollars in potential savings and/or economic loss prevented in 2023 while keeping a watchful eye over more than \$10.5 Billion in City assets, all of which was accomplished with an operating budget of \$3.2 Million.

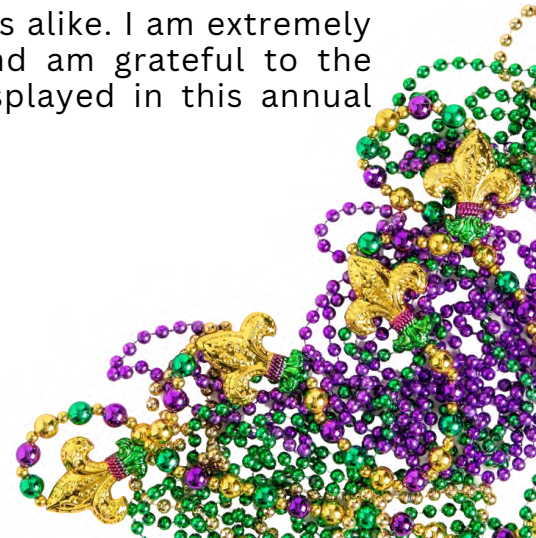
Our success is amplified when City employees and New Orleanians know who we are and understand our mission. To accomplish transparency, we have provided unprecedented access to our work when doing so would not interfere with the integrity of our audits, evaluations and investigations. We have also accomplished transparency through an effective social media initiative, as well as the redevelopment and deployment of an interactive website that is more accessible to the public and is reflective of our accomplishments.

We have embraced a workplace that embodies our values and have prioritized excellence in recruitment and hiring while promoting diversity, as well as developing sustainability practices such as paperless investigations. These improvements have enabled us to mitigate fraud, waste and abuse at unprecedented levels. I invite you to read this report in its entirety and learn how the OIG is identifying and mitigating risks facing New Orleans to ensure efficient government operations for citizens and visitors alike. I am extremely proud of our exponential growth and productivity and am grateful to the dedicated staff whose day-to-day work is proudly displayed in this annual report.

Sincerely,



Edward Michel, CIG
Inspector General





The OIG is an independent, nonpartisan body. It serves the citizens of New Orleans and provides independent and objective reporting to the Mayor, City Council, New Orleans residents, and other interested parties.

The OIG has a two-part mission. First, to prevent and detect fraud, waste, and abuse in City government. Second, to improve the programs and operations of the City of New Orleans through independent and objective oversight.

The OIG safely and securely receives complaints and tips from those who have witnessed or experienced fraud, waste and abuse in City government.

New Orleans voters approved a charter provision to establish an Office of Inspector General in 1996: Ten years later, Councilmember Shelley Midura led a post-Katrina reform-minded City Council in creating the Office with the passage of [City Code Section 2-1120](#).

The establishing legislation clearly delineates the purpose of the Office of Inspector General. The purpose of the OIG ordinance is to establish a full-time program of oversight to prevent and detect fraud, waste and abuse, and to promote efficiency and effectiveness in city programs and operations. This oversight includes audits, criminal and administrative investigations, inspections and evaluations, and monitoring.

IMPACT OVERVIEW

ANNUAL REPORT 2023 | 06

\$149,437,422

TOTAL REVENUE
GENERATED SINCE 2009

\$4.2 MILLION

POTENTIAL SAVINGS
IDENTIFIED IN 2023

\$1.4 BILLION

CITY'S ANNUAL BUDGET
FY 2023

\$10.6 BILLION

ASSETS SUBJECT TO OIG
OVERSIGHT IN 2023



TOTAL CITY EMPLOYEES
4,116 CLASSIFIED
690 UNCLASSIFIED

In 2023, our office cost the taxpayers of New Orleans **\$3.210 million**, which is equal to each citizen of New Orleans forgoing one order of beignets and a 15 ounce canned coffee and chicory from Café Du Monde.



AUDITS

ORLEANS PARISH COMMUNICATIONS
DISTRICT CREDIT CARDS AUDIT

EVALUATIONS

NEW ORLEANS POLICE DEPARTMENT
STAFFING, RECRUITMENT, AND
RETENTION

EVALUATION OF CITY EMPLOYEE TIME
AND ATTENDANCE REPORTING



Inspector General Edward Michel

INVESTIGATIONS

NEW ORLEANS POLICE DEPARTMENT
EXECUTIVE PROTECTION TEAM

ORLEANS PARISH JUVENILE COURT
EMPLOYEE DOMICILE POLICY
VIOLATIONS

SMART CITIES REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL

ORLEANS PARISH COMMUNICATIONS
DISTRICT VEHICLE ACCIDENT
IMPROPER REPORTING

ORLEANS PARISH SHERIFFS OFFICE
MARDI GRAS HOTEL ROOMS

RELEASE OF CONFIDENTIAL MATERIALS
IN NEW ORLEANS POLICE DEPARTMENT
PUBLIC INTEGRITY BUREAU
INVESTIGATION

55%

INCREASE IN PRODUCTIVITY
FROM 2022 TO 2023

REPORTS & LETTERS
PUBLISHED IN 2023:

17

REPORTS & LETTERS
PUBLISHED IN 2022:

11

PUBLIC LETTERS

USE OF UPPER PONTALBA APARTMENT

SEWERAGE & WATER BOARD
DELINQUENT ACCOUNTS AND
COLLECTION EFFORTS

CITY COUNCIL LETTER REGARDING
UPPER PONTALBA APARTMENT

POTENTIAL ORLEANS PARISH SHERIFF'S
OFFICE USE OF BRASS ERP SYSTEM

PLAZA TOWER AND ENFORCEMENT OF
THE MINIMUM PROPERTY
MAINTENANCE CODE

TIRES AND RIMS PURCHASED FOR NOPD
VEHICLES

PRESS RELEASES

\$187,000 IN ADDITIONAL PROPERTY
TAX REVENUE OWED TO THE CITY

RESPONSE

FORWARD TOGETHER NEW ORLEANS
RETURNS MONIES TO THE CITY

2024 ANNUAL WORKPLAN

THE CITY OF NEW ORLEANS OFFICE OF
INSPECTOR GENERAL'S ANNUAL
WORKPLAN COVERS THE PERIOD FROM
SEPTEMBER 1, 2023 TO AUGUST 31,
2024.

THE 2024 WORK PLAN IS A ROLLING
AUDIT AND EVALUATION PLAN
DESIGNED TO ALLOW GREATER
FLEXIBILITY AND DISCRETION IN THE
TIMING AND SELECTION OF PROJECTS.

PURSUANT TO THE CITY CHARTER, OIG
ORDINANCE, AND APPLICABLE
PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS, THE OIG
CONDUCTS A PLANNING PROCESS THAT
IDENTIFIES GOALS, PRIORITIES, AND
STRATEGIES THAT ALIGN WITH OUR
MISSION WHILE EFFECTIVELY USING
AVAILABLE RESOURCES.

THE 2024 ANNUAL WORK PLAN IS
BASED UPON THE RESULTS OF OUR
CITY-WIDE RISK ASSESSMENT, ALONG
WITH THE TIMELY AND RELEVANT
ASSESSMENT OF SEVERAL HIGH-
PROFILE LOCAL EVENTS AND RELATED
RESPONSES.

COMMITMENT

VISION

The OIG strives to be recognized as a leader in government oversight through its strategic and transformative approach to improving City performance via the prevention and detection of fraud, waste, and abuse.

- We work as a seamless, integrated team delivering valuable reports which benefit the public and support decision-makers in the City.
- We are an integral and trusted broker to our stakeholders.
- We are catalysts for positive change throughout the City.
- We have a diverse, competent, enthusiastic, and productive workforce and a key group of effective leaders at every level of the organization.
- We have credible risk assessment procedures that drive strategic and operational plans, priorities, and programs.
- We have efficient, effective processes and state-of-the-art infrastructure.

CORE VALUES

Integrity

- We are honest, ethical, and objective.
- We hold ourselves to the highest standards, and are willing to take a tough stance.
- We honor our commitments to each other and to our stakeholders.

Excellence

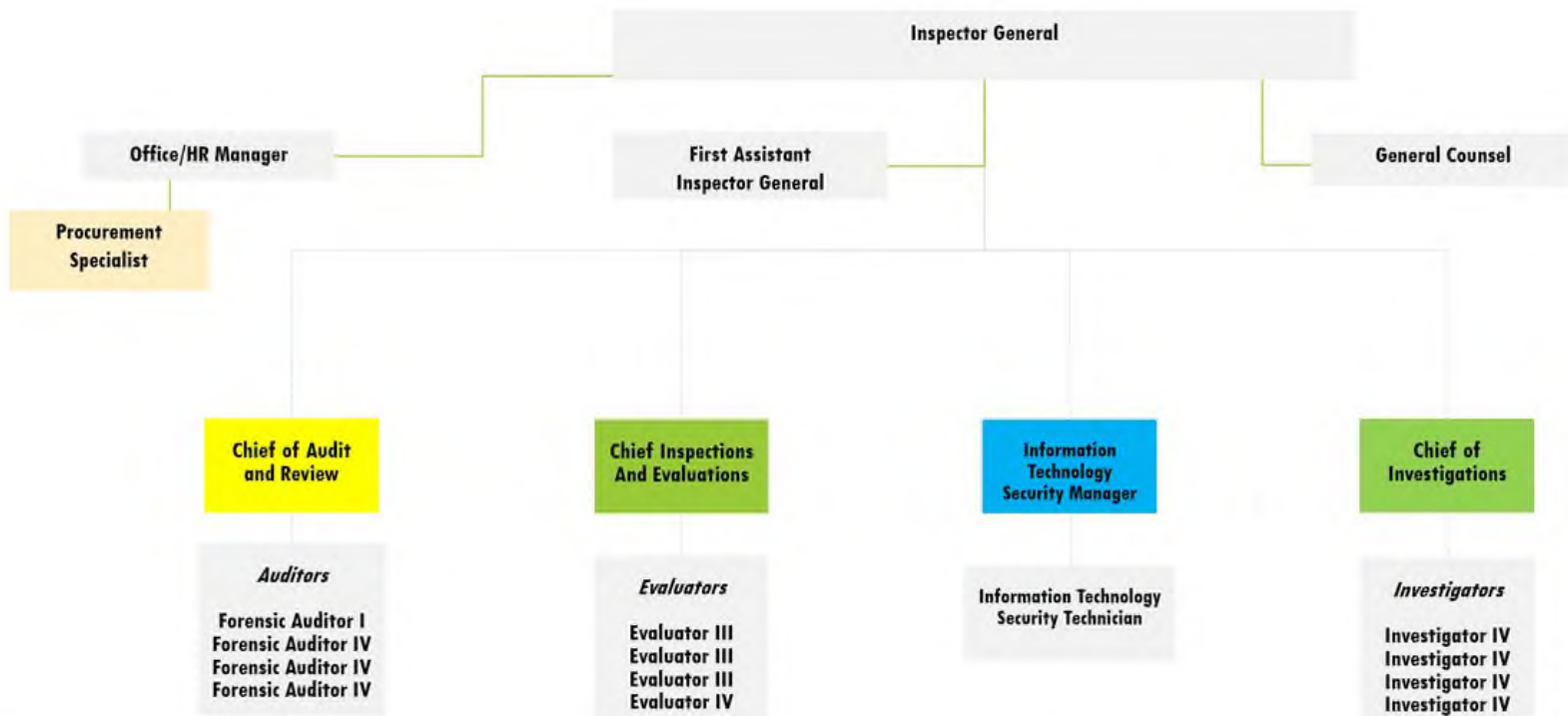
- We look to the future and seize opportunities to improve and enhance City-wide performance.
- We deliver timely, relevant, and high-impact products and services.

Accountability

- We operate as independent, transparent, and trusted brokers serving our stakeholders.
- We are passionate about delivering results that drive positive change.
- We are trustworthy and will follow through on our word.



DEDICATED STAFF



EXPERIENCE

OIG professional staff has more than 427 years of combined work experience, ranging from federal law enforcement investigations to auditing Fortune 500 companies. Our staff utilizes their collective expertise to ensure we can effectively engage with City leadership to audit, evaluate, and investigate a multitude of City programs and services.

EDUCATION

The OIG staff collectively possess undergraduate, graduate, and juris doctorate/doctoral degrees, making us a recognized leader in recruiting an educated workforce. These degrees include disciplines in Accounting, Computer Science, Criminal Justice, Political Science, and Public Administration.

PROFESSIONAL DESIGNATIONS HELD

Certified Fraud Examiner
 Certified Public Accountant
 Certified Internal Auditor
 Certified Fraud Specialist
 Cellebrite Mobile Forensics
 Cellebrite Certified Physical Analyst

Certified Inspector General
 Certified Inspector General Auditor
 Certified Inspector General Evaluator
 Certified Inspector General Investigator
 Society for Human Resources
 Management Certified Professional

PARTNERSHIP & COLLABORATION



Office of Inspector General
U.S. Department of Homeland Security



**METROPOLITAN
CRIME
COMMISSION**



AUDIT & REVIEW

ANNUAL REPORT 2023 | 12

Risk Assessment

HIGHEST RISK ENTITIES AS IDENTIFIED IN THE 2024 ANNUAL WORKPLAN

- Department of Finance
- Department of Public Works (DPW)
- Department of Safety & Permits (S&P)
- Department of Sanitation
- Equipment Maintenance Division (EMD)
- New Orleans Police Department (NOPD)
- Orleans Parish Communications District (OPCD)
- Orleans Parish Sheriff's Office (OPSO)
- Orleans Parish Hospital Service District - District A
- Sewerage and Water Board of New Orleans (S&WB)
- Corruption (City-Wide)

CITY-WIDE RISK ASSESSMENT

To assess risk, the OIG obtained questionnaires, internal policies and other documentation related to governance. The OIG also conducted interviews of City employees and reviewed news coverage, external audits, and any other publicly available information. For the 2023 Risk Assessment, the OIG reviewed data related to departments and updated risk categories as needed to provide current assignments.

Performance Audits, Financial Audits, Compliance Audits, Public Letters

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

USE OF UPPER PONTALBA APARTMENT



The OIG's March 16, 2023 public letter concerned the Mayor's personal use of a second floor Upper Pontalba apartment. The arrangement gave the appearance of a donation of public property in possible violation of the Louisiana Constitution. Based on the OIG's recommendations, the City Council passed an ordinance that the City relinquish the Mayor's Upper Pontalba apartment to the French Market Corporation to rent to the public. The Council's vote ensured that the City receives a benefit equivalent to the fair market value from this high demand property with a waitlist of more than 300 people, as well as eliminated further controversy concerning use of the apartment. The apartment would have generated approximately \$36,000 in annual rental revenue for the City if it was rented to the public during the year ended December 31, 2023.

NOPD TIRES AND RIMS

The OIG's May 18, 2023 public letter concerned the City's use of public funds to purchase specialized tires and rims to replace the original equipment manufacturer tires and rims included on new law enforcement vehicles assigned to NOPD Commanders. The tires and rims purchase was made by the EMD using an existing State of Louisiana (State) contract with NAPA Auto Parts (NAPA) for aftermarket auto parts. Both EMD and NOPD were unable to provide supporting documentation for the request and approval of the use of public funds to purchase the tires and rims. EMD management confirmed that the tires and rims purchase was made in order to make the newly-purchased Tahoe PPVs assigned to NOPD Commanders appear less like police vehicles and provide them with a smoother ride. The purchase, which totaled \$42,270, was in possible violation of City procurement policy, as well as Louisiana Public Bid Law because it did not comply with the State contract that was used. The original equipment manufacturer tires and rims were unaccounted for due to a lack of inventory controls.



OPCD CREDIT CARD USE

The OIG conducted an audit of the OPCD to determine if their credit card expenditures were business related and allowed by law and if OPCD's credit card purchases complied with relevant policies, laws or other business practices.

The audit found:

- OPCD used public funds to purchase \$7,769 in goods and services that appeared to lack a public purpose and may have violated the Louisiana Constitution,
- OPCD did not follow Louisiana Public Bid Law when making \$83,321 in purchases related to generator repairs and maintenance,
- OPCD did not provide support to show that \$530,383 in purchases were solicited in accordance with OPCD policy,
- \$220,321 in purchases were not approved in accordance with OPCD policy, and
- Receipts were not uploaded in a timely manner for a third of the tested credit card transactions.



Photo credit to Nola.com and staff file photo by Matthew Hinton

INSPECTIONS & EVALUATIONS

Inspections, Evaluations, and Performance Reviews, Public Letters

The Inspections and Evaluation Division's goal is to increase the efficiency, effectiveness, transparency, and accountability of city programs, agencies, and operations. To accomplish that goal, evaluators conduct independent, objective, empirically based, and methodologically sound inspections, evaluations, and performance reviews.

NOPD STAFFING, RETENTION, AND RECRUITMENT PUBLIC LETTER

In August 2023, the OIG released a public letter examining the NOPD's staffing trends and their recruitment and retention efforts over the prior two years. The NOPD is a key part of the City's critical infrastructure, and insufficient police staffing threatens public safety. The NOPD's workforce decreased significantly in the past few years, resulting in potential fines of more than \$38 million payable to Louisiana's Municipal Police Employees' Retirement System (MPERS) over the next 15 years if the staffing numbers do not improve. The OIG sought to determine what steps the NOPD had taken to rectify the shortage of police officers.

The OIG found that the NOPD made several changes to their policies and practices for officer recruitment and retention, including adjustments to officer compensation plans, a more streamlined application process, and increased civilian positions to reduce the demand on officers for non-law enforcement tasks. The process for hiring civilians and new officers, however, remained lengthy. Additionally, the report found NOPD lost more officers to retirement, termination, or separation than it replaced with new hires in recent years.



PLAZA TOWER AND ENFORCEMENT OF THE MINIMUM PROPERTY MAINTENANCE CODE

In response to several dangerous events, the OIG examined the Division of Code Enforcement's efforts to mitigate the safety hazards posed by the condition of the privately-owned property located at 1001 Howard Avenue, commonly known as the Plaza Tower.

The OIG found that there were no fines issued by the Division of Code Enforcement and no administrative hearings to address the conditions of the property between 2015 and 2021, when a piece of debris fell and injured a bicyclist. At a 2021 administrative hearing, the owners of the Plaza Tower were ordered to pay of a fine of \$4,075, plus daily fines of \$250 per day for any violation that was not remediated within 30 days. Since then, there were multiple events that underlined the danger posed by the Plaza Tower, such as fires and a falling death in 2023. Additionally, there were more than 170 crime-related NOPD calls for service in the immediate vicinity of the Plaza Tower between 2021 and 2023. The City was forced to close several major city streets in 2021, 2022, and again in 2023 to prevent additional injuries to bystanders. These closures cost the City nearly \$200,000.

After release of this letter, the City held two administrative hearings to recover the cost of closed streets and the daily fines due to failure to remediate the property within 30 days of the 2021 administrative judgment. In total, the City was able to obtain a judgment for \$400,000 in fines and reimbursements.



EVALUATION OF CITY EMPLOYEE TIME AND ATTENDANCE

The OIG conducted an evaluation the City employee time and attendance reporting for the period of January 1, 2021 to December 31, 2021. The purpose of the OIG's evaluation was to determine whether the City had policies, procedures, and controls to ensure that time and attendance was reported accurately. Further, the OIG sought to determine whether the City had penalties in place for noncompliance with time and attendance policies and mechanisms to assess if the attendance of unclassified employees was sufficient to carry out City duties.

In the course of the evaluation, evaluators learned that timecards of many executive-level employees were approved by individuals who lacked knowledge of their work schedules. Further, a survey of HR managers revealed that 41 percent of department heads were authorized to approve their own timecards. While CAO Policy Memorandum No.72(R) established payroll timekeeping procedures, evaluators found that the City lacked internal controls to ensure the City's payroll system (ADP) listed current timecard approvers. Employees who left City employment were still listed as timecard approvers for up to several years after their separation. Evaluators also found that City policies did not ensure salaried employees performed work during the pay period. Finally, evaluators discovered the City did not have a Payroll Governance Group, as required by Policy Memorandum No. 72(R).

INVESTIGATIONS

Upholding Government Integrity via Preliminary Investigations into Fraud, Waste, and Abuse

The Investigations Division conducts criminal and administrative investigations involving City employees, contractors, and vendors that receive City funds. Investigators also work with local, state, and federal partners to conduct joint investigations.

INVESTIGATIONS DIVISION 2023 SUMMARY

Administrative Investigations	3 Terminations/Resignations 1 Written Warning 2 Verbal Warnings
Criminal Investigations	1 Conviction 2 Sentencing 1 Arrest Warrant Issued
Complaints Investigated	7 Criminal 10 Administrative 1 Ethical
Investigations Opened	6 Criminal 7 Administrative 1 Ethical
Investigations Completed	6 Administrative 1 Criminal



CITY EMPLOYEES USING PUBLIC OFFICE FOR PERSONAL GAIN

On April 6, 2023, James Mohammad was imprisoned for forty-six (46) months. He pled guilty to conspiracy to using an interstate facility with intent to carry on unlawful activity (Title 18, United States Code, Sections 371 and 1952(a)(3)) and filing false tax returns (Title 26, United States Code, Section 7206(1)). Additionally, he was ordered to pay a \$100,000 fine, \$314,902 in restitution to the IRS, and a mandatory \$200 special assessment fee. Upon release from imprisonment, he will serve a three (3) year term of supervised release.

Mohamad, the former Director of the Department of Inspection and Code Enforcement for the City of Kenner, bribed Brian Medus, the Assistant Chief Mechanical Inspector for the City of New Orleans, Safety and Permits Department, with money in return for the issuance of fraudulent permits for Mohamad's HVAC jobs. Mohamad paid Medus and others approximately \$93,000 throughout the conspiracy to further the bribery scheme.

PRESS RELEASE

Former City of Kenner Director of Inspection and Code Enforcement Sentenced to 46 Months Imprisonment

NOPD EXECUTIVE PROTECTION TEAM

The OIG published a letter to the Superintendent of Police regarding the New Orleans Police Department Executive Protection Team (EPT). The OIG determined that the EPT does not have policies in place to regulate and guide its operations. In the calendar year 2022, the four-member EPT operated at a cost of \$414,796.25, which included the sum paid to an Orleans Parish Sheriff's Office deputy assigned to the EPT. The EPT's lack of policies and procedures contributed to ineffective and inefficient use of both the EPT's and NOPD's limited resources.

SAFETY & PERMITS THIRD-PARTY INSPECTORS

The OIG issued a letter to the Director of Safety and Permits regarding three Third-Party Inspectors with active residential and commercial contractor licenses issued by the State. As per Section 110.10(1) of the Building Code, under City Code Section 26-15, “Any Company or individual holding a Louisiana license as a building, residential, or Home Improvement contractor is prohibited from registering as a third-party inspection service provider.” As a result of the letter, the City notified the three Third-Party Inspectors that their registration with the City of New Orleans was revoked as of January 13, 2023.

TAX EXEMPTIONS FOR THE DEAD?

The OIG submitted 335 properties to the Orleans Parish Assessor’s Office for review in 2023. Of the 335 properties submitted, 246 were approved to have the homestead exemption removed which may result in a revised tax bill and savings to the City for those properties. This resulted in the identification of \$391,555.00 due the City.



FORMER S&WB EMPLOYEE CHARGED WITH EMBEZZLEMENT

On May 23, 2023, Jay Arnold, the former utility services administrator at the S&WB, was charged with embezzlement by a government agent. Arnold is accused of stealing cash that belonged to the Sewerage and Water Board. The bill of information alleges 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. 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 issuing those permits. 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.

On June 29, 2023, Jay Arnold pled guilty to Theft from an Agency Receiving Federal Funds. On November 15, 2023, 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.

JUAN ARRIAGO OF MORENO ELECTRIC PLEADS NO CONTEST

On July 20, 2023, the Louisiana State Licensing Board for Contractors (LSBLC) accepted a plea of No Contest from Juan J. Arriago of Moreno Electric. Arriago also pled No Contest on behalf of Moreno Electric. The pleas accepted were based on the violation of La R.S. 37:2150-2165, titled Requirements for Issuance of a License. The LSBLC accepted the surrendering of both Moreno's license and the qualifying party status of Arriago for one year. This information was developed during a joint investigation between the OIG and LSBLC.

According to the LSBLC, a "Qualifying party" means a natural person designated by the contractor to represent the contractor for the purpose of complying with the provisions in the Contractors Licensing Law and Rules and Regulations, including, without limitation, meeting the requirements for the initial license and/or any continuation thereof. A qualifying party is the person who holds the exam scores and is not the license owner unless he/she is a sole proprietor.

THIRD-PARTY INSPECTORS STRIKE AGAIN!

A company acting as a Third-Party Inspector for the City, inspecting completed work on behalf of the City, was removed from the role of eligible companies to provide Third-Party Inspection services to the City. This removal was based on the company's performance of inspections on properties in which they had a financial interest and on its status as a state licensed contractor which, per the Building Code, prohibited it from serving as a third party inspector. The City previously permitted the work to be inspected. Additionally, the company's principal was also personally removed from this list.



ORLEANS PARISH JUVENILE COURT EMPLOYEES VIOLATE CITY'S DOMICILE POLICY

The OIG Issued a Report of Investigation regarding an allegation that two (2) Orleans Parish Juvenile Court employees were not maintaining an actual domicile within the Parish of Orleans in violation of the City of New Orleans Domicile Ordinance and Chief Administrative Office Policy Memorandum Number 19(R), Domicile Requirements for City Employees.

City of New Orleans Chief Administrative Office

POLICY MEMORANDUM NO. 19(R)

February 24, 2021

TO: All Departments, Boards, Agencies and Commissions

From: Gilbert A. Montañó, Chief Administrative Officer

Subject: DOMICILE REQUIREMENTS FOR CITY EMPLOYEES

I. PURPOSE.

This policy memorandum is reestablished to conform to Ordinance No. 25, 242 M.C.S. of the City Code, Sections 2-971 through 2-978.

SENSITIVE INTERNAL NOPD INVESTIGATION COMPROMISED BY INFORMATION BREACH

The OIG released a Report of Investigation regarding the released confidential materials in the NOPD Officer Jeffrey Vappie case conducted by the NOPD PIB. The OIG determined the following: 1) The recordings of interviews conducted during the Vappie investigation appear to have been inadvertently released. 2) The NOPD, the City Attorney's Office, and the Office of Independent Police Monitor (OIPM) neglected to attempt to recover the recordings. 3) The OIPM did not initially provide the OIG with all available information regarding the release.



Thumb-drive snafu led to leak in NOPD Jeffrey Vappie probe, New Orleans OIG says

The leaked tapes ended up in hands of a LaToya Cantrell recall organizer, an ousted HANO board member and others.



City Attorney, NOPD, police monitor mishandled leaked Vappie investigation recordings, OIG finds



Inspector General: Mistake led to leak in Vappie probe



OIG finishes investigation into Vappie evidence leak, who did and did not cooperate

WASTEFUL SPENDING RESULTING IN 53 HOTEL ROOMS RENTED BUT UNUSED DURING MARDI GRAS 2023

Our office 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 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.



OIG REPORT PROMPTS CITY COUNCIL TO CREATE ORDINANCE TO LIMIT FUTURE PROCUREMENT FRAUD

The OIG 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 memoranda of understanding (MOUs), be uploaded into BRASS. In addition, the OIG recommended 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 constitutes a material breach of contract.

The OIG also recommends that the City 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. The City should also require companies and persons who volunteer their services to the City to adhere to La. R.S. 42:1121(B)(1) in the same manner required of public employees providing assistance to others after the termination of their public service.

CITY OF NEW ORLEANS



REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

FOR

**ADVANCED BROADBAND AND SMART CITY
SYSTEMS**

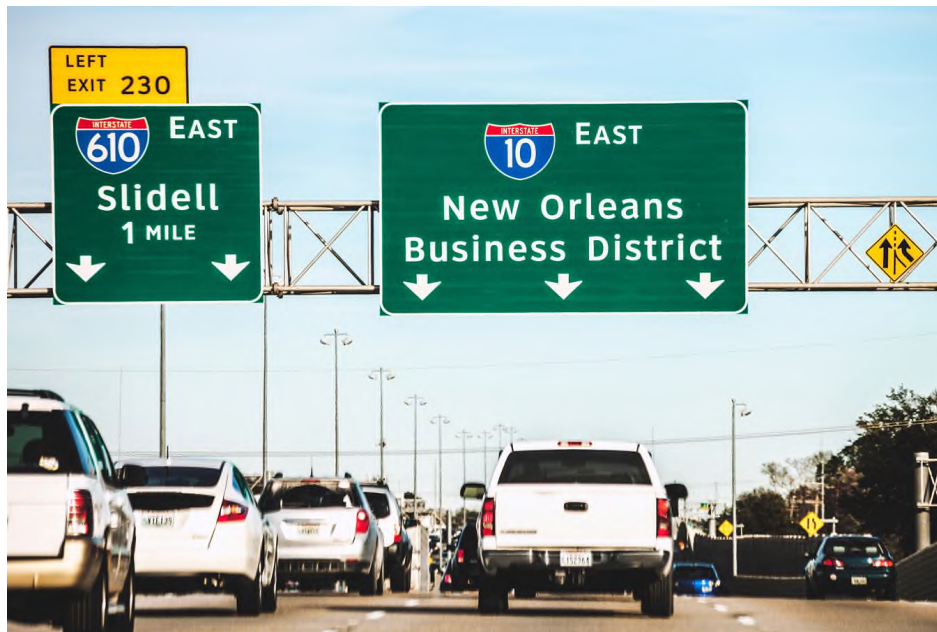
RFP NO. 1193

RELEASE DATE: 4/16/2021

SUBMISSION DEADLINE: 5/17/2021

INJURING PUBLIC RECORDS

The OIG 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 to undergo a 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 that lowered the standard required for drug and alcohol tests for OPCD employees involved in a vehicle accident while operating an OPCD vehicle.



PONTALBA APARTMENT

The Investigations division provided the Audit Division with information included in the letter regarding the Mayor's Pontalba Apartment.



ADMINISTRATION

Office Management, Human Resources, Procurement

The Office Management team consists of an HR Generalist and a Procurement Specialist. The Office Management team is responsible for the following ongoing tasks:

Human Resources

- Coordinating the recruitment and hiring process from beginning to end.
- Facilitating enrollment in benefit programs by filing paperwork on behalf of all employees as necessary.
- Employee relations.
- Maintenance of electronic and hard copy personnel files, including keeping certification and training information up to date.
- Verifying and approving time-keeping and payroll procedures.

Finance and Bookkeeping

- Managing and refining the OIG budget.
- Monthly reconciliation of budget and expenditures.
- Bookkeeping for all general ledger and credit transactions.

Procurement Process/Credit Card Expenditures

- Communicating with OIG vendors to obtain quotes and invoices.
- Processing requisitions to create purchase orders, and facilitating the completion of the purchasing process.
- Overseeing the timely payment of vendors for OIG goods and services.
- Monthly reconciliation of OIG credit card expenditures.

Operations

- Coordinating with the OIG's landlord and various City departments on administrative matters.
- OIG vehicle coordination and record keeping.
- Serving as an aid for the preparation of materials for meetings and presentations for stakeholders.

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

Security, Equipment, Forensics

The OIG Information Security Team consists of an IT Security Specialist and an IT Security Technician. The Information Security team is responsible for ensuring the OIG's information technology environment is resilient in the following areas:

- **Security** - To stop cyber threats before they happen, our team leverages multiple security measures to protect an organization's assets.
- **Availability** – Our team works to keep resources accessible to OIG staff so they can do their best work. Our team also maintains our website and shares communications with external stakeholders to ensure the work our divisions complete is available to the public for review.
- **Usability** -While we provide the most secure environment to protect our assets, we also take care in how those security measures effect our user ability to interact with the technology they need to compete their tasks.
- **Accountability** – Our team uses active event monitoring to support threat detection, system compliance, and security incident management.
- **Efficiency** – Our team provides equipment and other resources to all OIG staff so they can perform efficiently at their work tasks. Our team responds quickly to incidents to provide efficient resolutions to problems as they arise.



COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

2024 City Council Budget Hearings



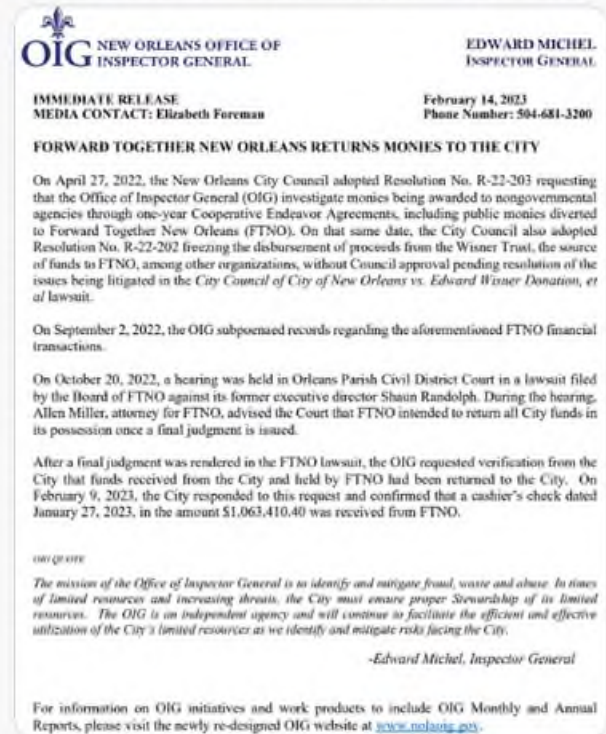
INSPECTOR GENERAL EDWARD MICHEL PRESENTED THE ANNUAL OIG BUDGET PROPOSAL TO CITY COUNCIL

PHOTO COURTESY OF MICHAEL ISAAC STEIN/THE LENS



New Orleans OIG @NOLAOIG · Feb 14

FORWARD TOGETHER NEW ORLEANS RETURNS MONIES TO THE CITY



7 7 1,605



New Orleans OIG @NOLAOIG · Mar 16

OIG recommends that the City relinquish the apartment to the French Market Corporation to rent to the public.

nolaoig.gov/media/use-of-u...



2 2 215



New Orleans OIG @NOLAOIG · Apr 6

The New Orleans OIG is proud to partner with our federal and local partners to mitigate fraud, and corruption.

Former City of Kenner Director of Inspection and Code Enforcement Sentenced to 46 Months Imprisonment



justice.gov

Former City of Kenner Director of Inspection and Code Enforcement Sentenced to 46 Months Imprison...

1 94



New Orleans OIG @NOLAQIG · May 3

The New Orleans Office of Inspector General Presented the OIG 2022 Annual Report to the New Orleans Rotary Club today.



1 1 1 249



New Orleans OIG @NOLAQIG · May 18

Dillard President Dr. Rochelle L. Ford, received an OIG Executive Briefing today. Special thanks to Dillard for supporting the mission of the OIG to prevent fraud, waste and abuse in New Orleans City Programs. @du1869



4 14 1,132



New Orleans OIG @NOLAQIG · May 17

Director Lauren Jardell from Tulane University received an OIG Executive Briefing today. Special thanks to Tulane for supporting the mission of the OIG to prevent fraud, waste and abuse in New Orleans City Programs. @Tulane



1 3 187



New Orleans OIG @NOLAQIG · May 5

Dr. Camacia Smith-Ross from Southern University at New Orleans received an OIG Executive Briefing today. Special thanks to SUNO for supporting the mission of the OIG to prevent fraud, waste and abuse in New Orleans City Programs @ChancellorSUNO



1 128



New Orleans OIG
@NOLAIG

The New Orleans office of Inspector General received the 2023 Excellence in Law Enforcement Award alongside the FBI from the Metropolitan Crime Commission. @MetroCrimeNOLA @FBINewOrleans



3:41 PM · Sep 7, 2023 · 713 Views

View post engagements

1 1 5 1 1



Post your reply

Reply



New Orleans OIG @NOLAIG · Sep 7
"In times of limited resources and increasing threats it is incumbent upon the OIG to combine our resources with federal, state and local stakeholders to mitigate public corruption." - Ec Michel, Inspector General

1 1 3 62 1



New Orleans OIG @NOLAIG · Oct 10

Today, our Citizens Academy attendees completed their training concerning the identification and mitigation of fraud, waste, abuse and public corruption.



1 1 2 230 1



New Orleans OIG
@NOIAIG

Follow

The Citizens Academy is an engaging 4-week program that provides City employees and community leaders with a greater understanding of how the Office of Inspector General assesses and mitigates risks facing the City.

3:16 PM · Oct 10, 2023 · 69 Views



New Orleans OIG @NOLAOIG · 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



New Orleans OIG @NOLAOIG · Nov 8

The Office of Inspector General released the results of a comprehensive investigation regarding the efficacy of the city's procurement processes. OIG recommendations, when enacted, will ensure transparency in the procurement process.

ow.ly/QHil50Q5G3P



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/



New Orleans OIG @NOLAOIG · Dec 9, 2023

The OIG published an Report of Investigation regarding the Release of Confidential Materials in an NOPD PIB Investigation. The City is responsible for safeguarding sensitive information.

ow.ly/tZYu50Qg8Q7



New Orleans OIG @NOLAOIG · Dec 14

The OIG published a report evaluating City Employee Time and Attendance Reporting. The OIG's evaluation aimed to determine whether the City had policies, procedures, and controls to ensure that time and attendance were reported accurately.

nolaoig.gov/media/evaluati...

OIG CITIZEN'S ACADEMY

This four-week program gives citizens and City employees an inside look at the OIG.



Our Citizens Academy program is an engaging four-week program that gives business, religious, civic, and community leaders an inside look at the OIG.

The mission of the OIG Citizens Academy is to foster a greater understanding of the role and mission of the OIG in the community through discussion and education. Upon completion, attendees will have a greater understanding of how the OIG assesses and mitigates fraud, waste, abuse and public corruption, as well as the proper protocols for reporting fraudulent behavior. Candidates can request to attend by visiting our website at nolaoig.gov

PROPOSED PROJECTS 2024

Department of Code Enforcement

- Blighted Properties

Equipment Maintenance Division (EMD)

- Fleet Management Follow-up

Department of Finance

- City Contracts

New Orleans Police Department

- Evidence Room Follow-Up

Department of Property Management

- HVAC Maintenance

District Attorney

- Case Acceptance/Refusal Deadlines

Department of Safety & Permits

- Contractor Compliance and Monitoring

Department of Sanitation

- Contractor Oversight

Public Corruption

- Conduct Fraud Awareness seminars for employees and contractors
- Conduct investigations and refer evidence to appropriate prosecutors.

REPORT FRAUD, WASTE & ABUSE

nolaig.gov/report


[Home](#)
[About Us](#)
[News](#)
[Reports, Letters & Plans](#)
[Contact](#)
[Fraud Reporting Options](#)
[REPORT FRAUD](#)

NOLA OIG Complaint Form

You may report the information anonymously, however any necessary follow-up for additional information will not be possible. For matters that do not involve City of New Orleans employees or City contractors click on Fraud Reporting Options from our main page and select the Other Reporting Options link.

Name *

First

Last

Phone Number You Can Be Reached At

Address

Address Line 1

Address Line 2

-- Select state --



City

State

Zip Code

Email

Are You A City Employee?

☐ Yes

☐ No

Name of Agency You Are Reporting

Name of the agency you want to report for fraud and/or waste

Help us promote effectiveness of the City of New Orleans

The Office of Inspector General (OIG) for the City of New Orleans encourages its citizens, employees, contractors, and others to report fraud, waste, and abuse.



Via Online Form

You can fill out the online form at the bottom of this page (scroll all of the way down) to submit a complaint



Via Phone

You can submit your complaint by phone at (504) 681-3247 or by fax at (504) 681-3230.



Via Letter

You can write a letter and mail it to: 525 St Charles Ave, New Orleans, LA 70130

THANK YOU, NEW ORLEANS!

Visit our website: nolaoig.gov

