

MONTHLY REPORT

MAY 2025



OIG

**NEW ORLEANS
OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL**

**EDWARD MICHEL, CIG
INSPECTOR GENERAL**

ADMINISTRATION DIVISION



2,053

Number of registered X followers

ADMINISTRATION

The Office Manager is responsible for the following:

- Human Resources
- Finance
- Procurement Process
- Operations

INFORMATION SECURITY

The OIG Information Security Specialist is responsible for maintaining the OIG's information technology (IT) integrity through:

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

COMMUNICATIONS

The Public Information Officer is responsible for the following:

- Public and Media Relations
- Social Media
- Monthly and Annual Reports to the ERB
- Editing | Writing | Reviewing

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:

- NOAB Contract Audit
- EMS Response Time
- New Orleans Recreation Department Audit
- Non-profit Property Tax Exemptions

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
NOAB Contract Audit	Fieldwork	Ongoing
Summary of Objectives: The purpose of the audit is to verify NOAB management compliance with relevant policies and procedures while procuring professional services contracts and assess the effectiveness of NOAB management controls in ensuring vendor compliance with contract terms.		
EMS Response Time	Fieldwork	Ongoing
Summary of Objectives: The purpose of the audit is to determine whether the City is responding to medical emergencies timely and in accordance with their policies and national standards.		
New Orleans Recreation Department Maintenance Audit	Fieldwork	Ongoing
Summary of Objectives: The objective of the audit is to determine whether NORD maintained their facilities in accordance with policy and best practices.		
Non-profit Property Tax Exemptions	Planning	Ongoing
Summary of Objectives: The objective of the audit is to determine if the City is adequately verifying the eligibility of non-profits exempt from paying property taxes, as well as to determine if organizations are improperly included as exempt.		

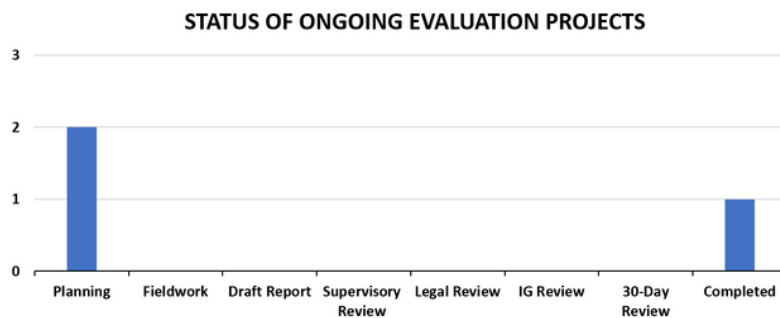
Footnotes:

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:

- City Emergency Contracts Process
- NORD Booster Clubs and Athletic Teams Resources
- Traffic Camera Safety Program Follow-Up

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.

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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 each project's objectives.

Project Name	Project Phase ¹	Anticipated ² Completion Date
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City Emergency Contracts Process	Completed	Released June 5, 2025
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Summary of Objectives: The purpose of this evaluation is to determine if the City's Emergency Procurement procedures are efficient and timely in addressing City departments' needs and whether they are consistent with best practices and standards used in comparable jurisdictions.

NORD Booster Clubs and Athletic Teams Resources	Planning	Ongoing
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Summary of Objectives: The purpose of this evaluation is to determine whether NORD has sufficient controls in place to ensure that teams comply with NORD policies and with the law as well as to assess whether NORD's youth athletics registration fee policies and procedures result in equitable and consistent opportunities for the City's youth.

Traffic Camera Safety Program Follow-Up	Planning	Ongoing
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Summary of Objectives: To determine whether the City adopted the changes recommended in the OIG's 2020 report Management and Operations of the Traffic Camera Safety Program.

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

ADMINISTRATIVE INVESTIGATIONS (MAY HIGHLIGHTS)

Department of Safety and Permits (DSP) Initiative in report-writing phase

This joint initiative with the Louisiana State Licensing Board for Contractors (LSLBC) is working to identify ways to ensure effective operations of DSP. As part of the initiative, OIG staff have been assigned to DSP to review policies, procedures, and internal controls with a focus on identifying and mitigating gaps and weaknesses. This report is pending supervisory review.

Other ongoing investigations:

The Investigation Division also continues to assist in the criminal prosecutions of **Leessa Augustine**, **Tyrell Morris**, and **Gabriel Thomas**.

Augustine, a former New Orleans SWBNO Senior Special Agent and reserve NOPD officer, was indicted in multiple fraud schemes with four counts of wire fraud, two counts of aggravated identity theft, and one count of making false statements to investigators. She is scheduled for a re-arraignment hearing June 10.

Morris, former Executive Director of the Orleans Parish Communication District (OPCD), was indicted on charges of insurance fraud, malfeasance in office, impersonation of a police officer, and second-degree injuring of public records. Morris is scheduled for a hearing July 14 and trial Aug. 12.

Thomas, a former SWBNO employee, was arrested by Louisiana State Police's Troop NOLA on Dec. 27, 2024 as part of a joint investigation into brass and copper thefts from SWBNO. Thomas is scheduled for a motions hearing on June 26, 2025.

An indictment is merely a charge and the guilt of the defendant must be proven beyond a reasonable doubt.

During May, the Investigation Division received 19 complaints, opened one investigation, made three referrals to the appropriate City departments, and served two requests for documentation.

2025 BUDGET

Total 2025 Appropriation \$ 4,488,636

Expenditures	Spent YTD
Personnel	\$ 1,246,195
Operating	\$ 107,533
Total	\$ 1,353,728
Remaining Balance	\$ 3,134,908

SOCIAL MEDIA

Facebook: @NewOrleansOIG

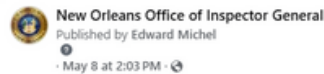


Did you know that the OIG provides presentations on our initiatives to City employees, civic and community groups, and other interested citizens?

Within the past year, the OIG has given presentations to audiences with the New Orleans Public Library, the U.S. Department of State's International Visitor Leadership Program, and Keller Williams Realty, among others.

If your City agency or civic organization would like a presentation or briefing on the mission, role, and initiatives of the OIG, visit [NolaOIG.gov](https://nolaOIG.gov) and complete a Speaker Request Form.

<https://nolaOIG.gov/community-event-and-speaker-request/>



The OIG has initiated a review of the New Orleans Recreation Development Commission's (NORD) oversight of booster club and athletic team resources. The review's purpose is to determine whether NORD policies and practices provide sufficient oversight of these resources, which provide valuable experiences and opportunities to youth throughout our City.

This evaluation is in addition to our ongoing audit of NORD's facilities maintenance practices.

If you are aware of fraud, waste, abuse, or corruption within any City agency, contact the OIG tip line at 504-681-3247, hotline@nolaOIG.gov, or via [NolaOIG.gov/report](https://nolaOIG.gov/report). Tipsters can remain anonymous.



If you have witnessed or experienced a suspicious permitting inspection for a home or commercial property in the City of New Orleans, please notify the OIG tip line by ... [See more](#)

**ARE YOU AWARE OF FRAUDULENT
OR FAULTY HOME AND/OR
BUILDING INSPECTIONS?**

We want to hear from you.

Report suspicious permitting inspections
to the New Orleans OIG hotline:

 504-681-3247

 [NolaOIG.gov/report](https://nolaOIG.gov/report)

 hotline@nolaOIG.gov

SOCIAL MEDIA

Instagram: @NewOrleansOIG



SOCIAL MEDIA

X: @NOLAOIG



New Orleans OIG @NOLAOIG · May 20

In these times of increasing threats and limited resources, the OIG is reiterating the need for the City to increase oversight of the \$123M in City funds disbursed to outside agencies. Please review our recent public letter here: tinyurl.com/prun4bbt



New Orleans OIG @NOLAOIG · May 5

Listen in this morning with @tuckerwwl!

TUNE IN!

Catch **Inspector General Ed Michel** live on WWL Radio to discuss the OIG's new report on Safety & Permits.

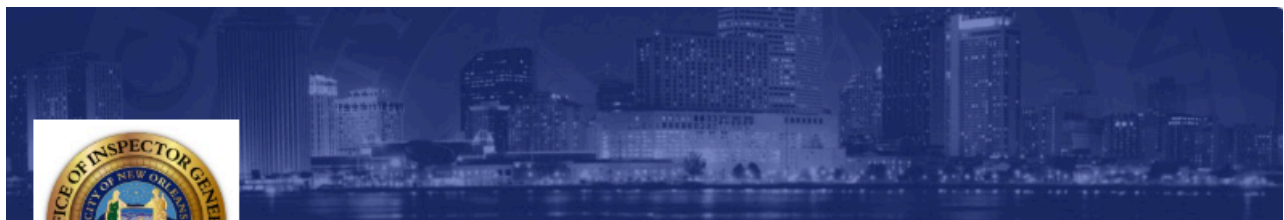


9:40 a.m. Monday, May 5

WWL First News with Tommy Tucker

LinkedIn: @OfficeofInspectorGeneralCityofNewOrleans

Follow the OIG on our **newly updated** LinkedIn page!



Office of Inspector General City of New Orleans

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Jessica & 6 other connections work here

Message

Following



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