

# **MONTHLY REPORT**

**JUNE 2025**



# **OIG**

**NEW ORLEANS  
OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL**

**EDWARD MICHEL, CIG  
INSPECTOR GENERAL**



# ADMINISTRATION DIVISION

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# 2,064

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 Maintenance 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 <sup>1</sup>	Anticipated <sup>2</sup> Completion Date
NOAB Contract Audit	Fieldwork	Ongoing
<b>Summary of Objectives:</b> 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
<b>Summary of Objectives:</b> 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
<b>Summary of Objectives:</b> 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
<b>Summary of Objectives:</b> 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.		

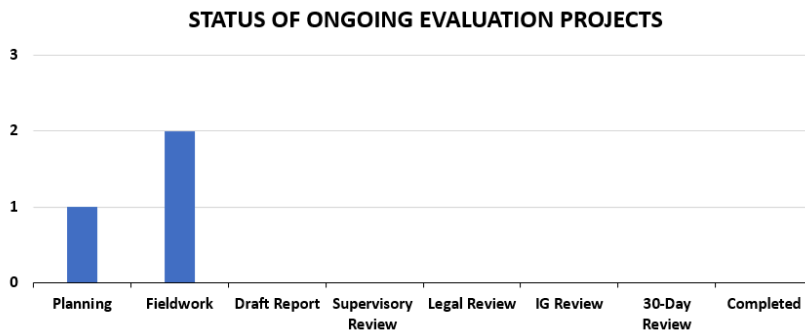
### Footnotes:

**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:

- NORD Booster Clubs and Athletic Teams Resources
- Traffic Camera Safety Program Follow-Up
- Equipment Maintenance Division Fleet Management

## 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 each project's objectives.

Project Name	Project Phase <sup>1</sup>	Anticipated <sup>2</sup> Completion Date
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NORD Booster Clubs and  
Athletic Teams Resources

Fieldwork

Ongoing

**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

Fieldwork

Ongoing

**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.

Equipment Maintenance Division  
Fleet Management

Planning

Ongoing

**Summary of Objectives:** To determine if the EMD has policies and procedures to adequately maintain, inventory, and surplus City equipment in an efficient and effective manner.

### 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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## **Department of Safety and Permits (DSP) Initiative in review 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 under supervisory review.

## **Former SWBNO and NOPD officer pleads guilty to fraud charges**

**Leessa Augustine**, a former New Orleans SWBNO Senior Special Agent and reserve NOPD officer, pled guilty June 11 to two counts of wire fraud relating to an emergency benefit, one count of wire fraud affecting a financial institution, and one count of making false statements to investigators. Her sentencing is set for Sept. 16, 2025.

## **Contractor licenses suspended pending hearing**

The Louisiana State Licensing Board for Contractors (LSLBC) has suspended the licenses of three contractors and their businesses in connection with alleged fraudulent documents submitted to the New Orleans Department of Safety & Permits. Licenses were suspended for architect Jon Andersen and his company, Andersen Design & Build, as well as James Louis Jones and Daisy May Jones, and their company, J.L.J. Construction. Permanent revocation hearings for all are set for July.

## **ONGOING PROSECUTIONS**

The Investigation Division also continues to assist in the criminal prosecutions of Tyrell Morris, Gabriel Thomas, and Jeffery Vappie II.

**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, 2025.

**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. He is scheduled for a motions hearing on July 9, 2025.

**Vappie**, a former NOPD officer, was indicted on seven counts of wire fraud in connection with falsifying NOPD timecards. He was additionally indicted for making false statements to federal agents. His trial is scheduled for December 2025.

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

# INVESTIGATION DIVISION

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## **Inquiry into NOPD contract leads to more than \$73K in savings, repairs to Special Operations Division**

OIG investigators made inquiries into a contract for repairs to the New Orleans Police Department's Special Operations Division (SOD) building. The inquiries led to a new contract that saved more than \$73,000 in City funds and included greater repairs to the SOD building. The SOD manages the NOPD's elite specialized units, such as the Violent Offenders Warrant Squad and Bomb Disposal Unit, among others.

### **BY THE NUMBERS**

During June, the Investigation Division received 14 complaints, opened two investigations, and served three requests for documentation.



# 2025 BUDGET

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**Total 2025 Appropriation \$ 4,488,636**

<b>Expenditures</b>	<b>Spent YTD</b>
<b>Personnel</b>	<b>\$ 1,646,722</b>
<b>Operating</b>	<b>\$ 166,507</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 1,813,278</b>
<b>Remaining Balance</b>	<b>\$ 2,675.358</b>

# SOCIAL MEDIA

Facebook: @NewOrleansOIG



New Orleans Office of Inspector General

Published by Edward Michel

June 25 at 4:43 PM · 🌐

Collaboration is key to the OIG's success in ensuring the City's limited resources are used efficiently and effectively. The OIG will continually align our subject matter experts with local, state, and federal partners to hold public officials accountable when they use their public office for personal gain.

This month, SWBNO Senior Special Agent and NOPD Reserve Officer Leessa Augustine pled guilty to federal charges as part of multiple fraud schemes. The investigation and conviction resulted from the OIG's collaboration with local, state, and federal agencies, including the U.S. Attorney's Office, Eastern District of Louisiana, the [FBI - New Orleans](#), and [New Orleans Police Department](#), among others.



FBI - New Orleans

June 17 at 2:30 PM · 🌐

A former Sewerage and Water Board Special Agent and New Orleans Police Officer pleads guilty to several schemes to steal taxpayer money.

The [New Orleans Police Department](#) and the New Orleans Office of Inspector General providing crucial assistance to the FBI. Details: <https://ow.ly/xg5650Wb1aR>



New Orleans Office of Inspector General

Published by Edward Michel

June 17 at 3:05 PM · 🌐

Leessa Augustine pled guilty this week to federal fraud charges in connection with multiple schemes committed while she served as a New Orleans Sewerage and Water Board Senior Special Agent and NOPD Reserve Officer.

The OIG thanks the U.S. Attorney's Office, Eastern District of Louisiana, for diligently pursuing charges against Augustine. We also thank our local and state partners for their work on this investigation.

The OIG conducts investigations such as these as part of our mission to ensure City resources, including those dedicated to public safety, are used efficiently and effectively.

IG Ed Michel said, "In these times of increasing threats and limited resources, it is incumbent upon us to combine efforts with our local, state, and federal partners to identify and mitigate risks facing our City."

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

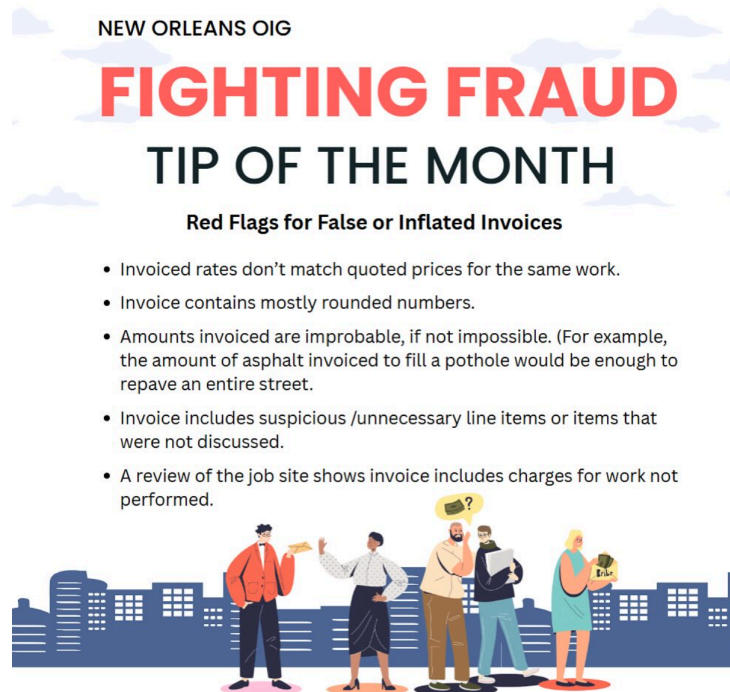
**PRESS RELEASE**  
JUSTICE.GOV

JUSTICE.GOV

Leessa Augustine, Former Sewerage & Water Board Special Agent and New Orleans Police Officer, Pleads Guilty to Multiple Fraud Schemes

# SOCIAL MEDIA

Instagram: @NewOrleansOIG



X: @NOLAOIG



New Orleans OIG @NOLAOIG · Jun 5



The OIG today released a public letter finding the City's policies and procedures for procurement during undeclared emergencies to be vague and inconsistent, leaving the process open to potential fraud, waste, and abuse. To review the letter, visit [NolaOIG.gov](https://nolaOIG.gov).



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# SOCIAL MEDIA

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**Office of Inspector General City of New Orleans**

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Congratulations to the investigators sworn in today by Ethics Review Board Chair Dr. Dawn Broussard! OIG Investigators conduct criminal and administrative investigations involving City employees, contractors, and vendors that receive City funds. OIG investigators also work with local, state, and federal partners to conduct joint investigations.

More on our investigators:

First Assistant IG Steven Krueger joined our team in April 2024, bringing more than 30 years of federal law enforcement experience. His prior roles include Forensic Chemist for the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) and more than 25 years as a Special Agent and then Security Specialist with the FBI. He has a Bachelor's degree in Chemistry and a Master's in Inorganic Chemistry.

Lawrence "Larry" Robinson joined the OIG team in February and has more than 25 years of experience as an FBI Special Agent and a Bachelor's degree in Accounting.

William Charles "Chuck" Williams Jr. joined the OIG team in March and has more than 22 years of experience as an FBI Special Agent. He has Bachelor's and Master's of Science degrees, and a Juris Doctor.

Peter Brito joined the OIG team in April. He has more than 23 years of law enforcement experience, many with the Harbor Police Department in New Orleans. He has a Bachelor's in Accounting, a Master's in Management, and is a Certified Fraud Examiner.

[#governmentaccountability](#) [#nolaig](#)

