

MONTHLY REPORT

SEPTEMBER 2025



OIG

**NEW ORLEANS
OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL**

**EDWARD MICHEL, CIG
INSPECTOR GENERAL**

ADMINISTRATION DIVISION



2,086

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.

STATUS OF ONGOING AUDIT PROJECTS



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 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 | Draft Report | 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 | Draft Report | 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. | | |

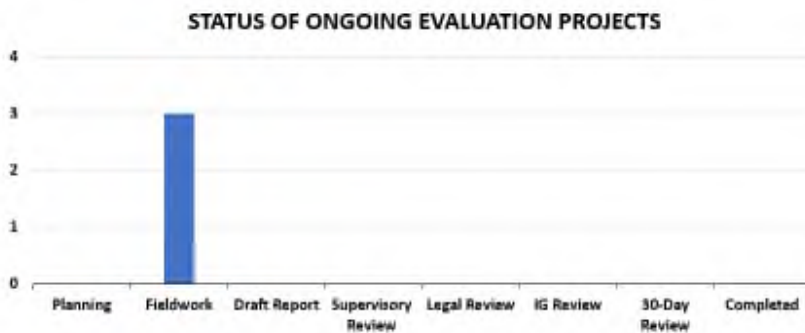
Footnotes:

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:

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

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 |
|--|----------------------------|---|
| NORD Booster Clubs and Athletic Teams Resources | Fieldwork | Ongoing |
| Summary of Objectives: 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 | Fieldwork | 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. | | |
| NOPD Overtime | Fieldwork | Ongoing |
| Summary of Objectives: To determine whether NOPD policies and procedures for overtime are consistent with best practices and effective in preventing payroll fraud. | | |

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

ONGOING PROSECUTIONS:

The Investigation Division continues to assist in the criminal prosecutions of Mayor LaToya Cantrell and Jeffrey Vappie, Tyrell Morris, Leessa Augustine, Gabriel Thomas, and Michael Willis Jr.

A new trial date has been set for **Cantrell** and **Vappie** after each pled not guilty during September arraignments in federal court. A new trial date for both has been set for October 2026. The new date was set following an Aug. 15 superseding indictment for conspiracy to commit wire fraud, wire fraud, conspiracy to obstruct justice, obstruction of justice, and making false declarations before a grand jury against Cantrell and her former bodyguard.

The 18-count indictment alleges Cantrell and Vappie perpetrated a yearslong scheme to defraud the City of New Orleans and New Orleans Police Department (NOPD) by exploiting their positions with the City for personal gain. The indictment was the result of collaboration among the New Orleans OIG, the U.S. Attorney's Office, Eastern District of Louisiana, the FBI New Orleans Field Office, and the Metropolitan Crime Commission of New Orleans.

Morris, former Executive Director of the Orleans Parish Communication District (OPCD), was convicted Sept. 26 on all charges against him, including insurance fraud, malfeasance in office, impersonation of a police officer, and second-degree injuring of public records. Morris's sentencing is set for Oct. 2, 2025.

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, formerly set for September, has been pushed to Oct. 14, 2025.

Thomas, a former SWBNO employee, was arrested by Louisiana State Police's Troop NOLA last December as part of a joint investigation into brass and copper thefts from SWBNO. Thomas' motions hearings were concluded in August pending his trial date.

Willis, a former City of New Orleans tow truck driver, was booked Sept. 26 with additional charges of obstruction of justice, malfeasance in office, and injuring public records as part of an ongoing joint investigation by the OIG and Louisiana State Police Troop NOLA. Louisiana State Police first arrested Willis in late July after the joint investigation revealed Willis was bypassing the official tow process by accepting cash payments in exchange for not towing vehicles.

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

INVESTIGATION DIVISION

Department of Safety & Permits report to be released

The OIG's Department of Safety & Permits (S&P) Review is set for release. The report contains observations and recommendations resulting from an extensive review of the agency's policies, procedures, and internal controls. The OIG conducted the review, which involved embedding OIG staff at S&P, with a focus on identifying and mitigating inefficiencies at this critical agency.

The OIG initiated the review of S&P following multiple instances of fraud, waste, abuse, and mismanagement within S&P. Investigations into these instances by the OIG and partnering agencies led to the arrest, indictment, termination, and/or resignation under investigation of multiple S&P employees. These repeated instances point to ineffective operations at a systemic level, which created opportunities for corruption. The report includes recommendations for reforming S&P to ensure efficient and effective services for the citizens of New Orleans.

BY THE NUMBERS

As of **Sept. 15**, the Investigation Division had received 9 complaints and served 4 requests for documentation.

***Investigation Division numbers are the latest available as of report date.**

2025 BUDGET

Total 2025 Appropriation \$ 4,488,636

| Expenditures | Spent YTD |
|--------------------------|---------------------|
| Personnel | \$ 2,260,729 |
| Operating | \$ 219,226 |
| Total | \$ 2,479,955 |
| Remaining Balance | \$ 2,008,681 |

***Budget table is as of August 31, 2025, the latest monthly budget information available as of report date.**

SOCIAL MEDIA



Facebook: @NewOrleansOIG



New Orleans Office of Inspector General [collaborates with Metropolitan Crime Commission of New Orleans](#)

Published by Edward Michel · 2 days · 🌐

Our office is proud to collaborate with the [Metropolitan Crime Commission of New Orleans \(MCC\)](#) on our mission to identify and mitigate fraud, waste, and abuse in City government. The MCC has exposed corruption and promoted criminal justice system accountability since 1952. Congratulations to the MCC on another successful year, and to all of those honored at today's MCC Excellence in Law Enforcement Awards Luncheon.

Pictured with Inspector General Ed Michel are MCC President Rafael Goyenache, MCC Vice President Michelle Foster, and Louisiana Inspector General Stephen Street.



SOCIAL MEDIA



Instagram: @NewOrleansOIG



X: @NOLA0IG


NEW ORLEANS OIG

FIGHTING FRAUD

TIP OF THE MONTH

Signs of Collusion in Bidding **PART 2**

- Physical evidence of collusion, such as:
 - Different companies submitting bids with the same handwriting, in the same envelopes, and/or with the same mathematical or spelling errors.
 - Different companies submitting bids from the same email address.
- Qualified bidders do not bid, even if they initially took steps to bid.



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neworleansoig This month's Fraud Tip highlights additional signs of collusion in bidding. Collusion in bidding occurs when two or more contractors, companies, or vendors conspire to manipulate the bidding process, often to inflate prices or ensure a specific bidder wins. According to the U.S. Department of Justice, the above items are signs of potential collusive bidding. For more signs of collusion in bidding, see our Fraud Tip of the Month for August.


View insights

Boost post

So the first to like this
7 minutes ago

New Orleans OIG
@NOLA0IG

Happy National Police Woman Day! Thank you to the women who serve our communities by keeping them safe. We appreciate you.
[#nationalpolicewomaniday](#)



SOCIAL MEDIA



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Office of Inspector General City of New Orleans

303 followers

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Join our team! The New Orleans Office of Inspector General is looking for an Inspector and Evaluator III or IV, with a special interest in applicants with experience in procurement.

Working with the OIG provides a unique opportunity to make a positive impact on our City by enhancing transparency and accountability in New Orleans government.

Inspector and Evaluator is a classified Civil Service position. For more information on the position and application process, visit [NoaOIG.gov/Careers](https://noa.ig.gov/Careers).

#NoaOIG #NowHiring #Inspector #Evaluator

