

MONTHLY REPORT

OCTOBER 2025



OIG

**NEW ORLEANS
OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL**

**EDWARD MICHEL, CIG
INSPECTOR GENERAL**

ADMINISTRATION DIVISION



2,087

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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

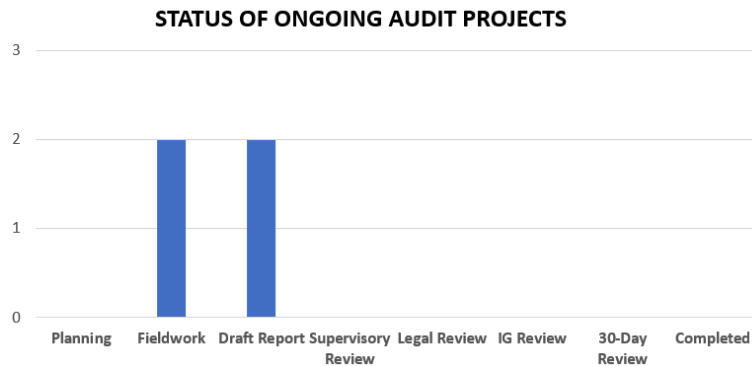
COMMUNICATIONS

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 ¹	Anticipated ² Completion Date
NOAB Contract Audit	Draft Report	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	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	Fieldwork	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.		

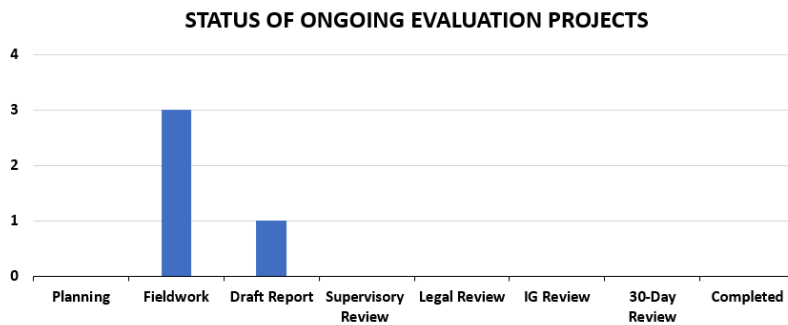
Footnotes:

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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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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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

Draft Report

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.

INSPECTIONS & EVALUATIONS DIVISION

Department of Safety & Permits report released

The OIG's Department of Safety & Permits (S&P) Review was released Oct. 7, 2025. The report, intended to provide a road map for reform of S&P, includes 12 recommendations resulting from an extensive review of the agency's policies, procedures, and internal controls over a months-long period in late 2024.



Department of Safety and Permits Permitting and Inspections

Review

October 7, 2025

Edward Michel, CIG
Inspector General

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.

Updates include the following:

Morris, former Executive Director of the Orleans Parish Communication District (OPCD), was sentenced Oct. 1, 2025, to 10 years in prison, with nine suspended, following his Sept. 26 convictions of insurance fraud, malfeasance in office, impersonation of a police officer, and second-degree injuring of public records.

Augustine, a former New Orleans SWBNO Senior Special Agent and reserve NOPD officer, is scheduled for sentencing Nov. 4, 2025. She pled guilty in June 2025 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.

Thomas, a former SWBNO employee, is scheduled for a pretrial conference Oct. 27. He was arrested by Louisiana State Police's Troop NOLA in December 2024 as part of a joint investigation into brass and copper thefts from SWBNO. His trial date has not been set.

Willis, a former City tow truck driver, is scheduled to appear in court Oct. 28 and Nov. 25 in connection with two counts each of malfeasance in office, obstruction of justice, and injuring public records. Louisiana State Police Troop NOLA arrested Willis in July after a joint investigation with the OIG revealed Willis was bypassing the official tow process by accepting cash payments in exchange for not towing vehicles. Willis was again arrested Sept. 26 as part of the ongoing joint investigation.

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

BY THE NUMBERS

As of **Oct. 15**, the Investigation Division had received 14 complaints, opened two investigations, and given three presentations.

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

2025 BUDGET

Total 2025 Appropriation \$ 4,488,636

Expenditures	Spent YTD
Personnel	\$ 2,383,139
Operating	\$ 242,355
Total	\$ 2,625,494
Remaining Balance	\$ 1,863,142

***Budget table is as of September 30, 2025, the latest monthly budget information available as of report date.**

SOCIAL MEDIA



Facebook: @NewOrleansOIG



New Orleans Office of Inspector General

Published by Hootsuite · October 1 at 2:30 PM ·

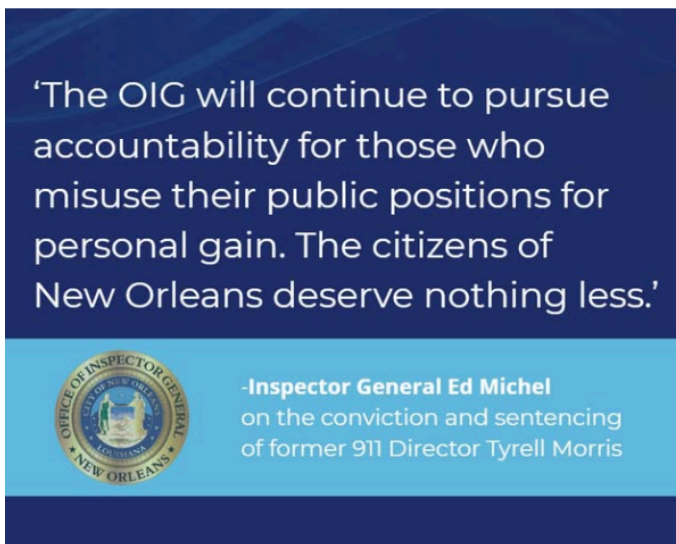
Today, former 911 Director Tyrell Morris was sentenced following his felony convictions on charges of insurance fraud, malfeasance in office, injuring public records, and false personation of a peace officer.

Thank you to the jury for their dedicated service on behalf of our City and to the Orleans Parish District Attorney's Office for their unwavering commitment to justice in this case.

The essential services provided by the Orleans Parish Communication District (OPCD) are vital to the health and safety of our community. It is our duty at the Office of Inspector General to ensure that public officials uphold their responsibilities with integrity.

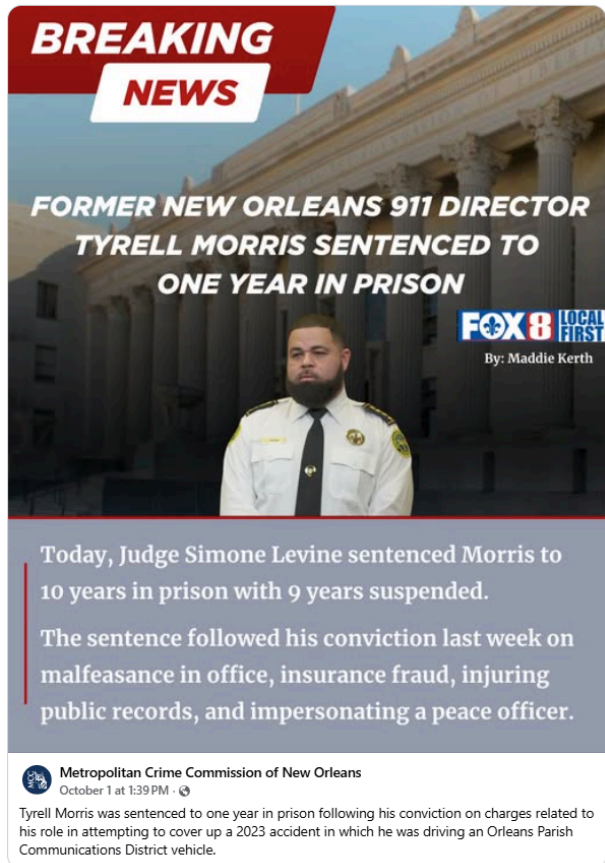
In alignment with our mission, the OIG will continue to pursue accountability for those who misuse their public positions for personal gain. The citizens of New Orleans deserve nothing less.

#NolaOIG #Integrity



New Orleans Office of Inspector General

Published by Edward Michel · October 1 at 2:35 PM ·



New Orleans Office of Inspector General

Published by Edward Michel · October 7 at 5:15 PM ·

The OIG today released a report providing recommendations for reforming the New Orleans Safety & Permits (S&P) Department. Find out more about our recommendations here... [See more](#)



New Orleans Office of Inspector General

Published by Edward Michel · October 10 at 2:13 PM ·

Host [Kaare Johnson](#) - [The Neutral Ground](#) invited Inspector General Ed Michel to The Neutral Ground this week to discuss the OIG's newly released recommendations for reform of the New Orleans Safety & Permits (S&P) Department. After embedding our staff within S&P for several months, we identified critical inefficiencies and issued 12 recommendations for ensuring efficient operations of this essential City agency.

Listen below to learn more! IG Michel begins at the 18:32 mark.

<https://m.youtube.com/watch?v=yh8AWQQucl>



SOCIAL MEDIA



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X: @NOLAOIG



neworleansoig Thank you to Bishop Tyrone G. Jefferson Jr. for his service on the New Orleans Ethics Review Board. Inspector General Ed Michel recently presented Bishop Jefferson with a certificate of appreciation to recognize his contributions to making New Orleans a safer, more transparent, and more accountable place. We are thankful for his time and dedication.



New Orleans OIG @NOLAOIG · Oct 16

Inspector General Ed Michel was pleased to host a group of Princeton University graduate students to discuss the crucial role of the OIG as an independent watchdog for the City, committed to mitigating fraud and abuse while improving the efficiency of government operations.



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New Orleans OIG @NOLAOIG · Oct 16

IG Michel appreciated the opportunity to engage with the students, who requested a visit after identifying our office as one of the most effective nationwide. The group is exploring agencies like ours to identify practices and conditions that allow for effective oversight.



neworleansoig This week, Inspector General Ed Michel and Mark Zetzmarm of the Robert E. Zetzmarm Center for Public Policy and Administration met to discuss the OIG's mission to support New Orleans area educational, social, and civic growth. The OIG has a mission to support New Orleans area educational, social, and civic growth. The OIG has a mission to support New Orleans area educational, social, and civic growth. The OIG has a mission to support New Orleans area educational, social, and civic growth.



neworleansoig Today The OIG is pleased to host Inspector General Ed Michel for a chance to see how our work aligns with your voice matters!

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SOCIAL MEDIA



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Office of Inspector General City of New Orleans

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October is Cybersecurity Awareness Month! Join us in this global initiative to raise awareness about the importance of cybersecurity and highlight actions to reduce risks. Cybersecurity is not just an IT concern; it's essential for the smooth operation of our government and businesses.

The Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA) has shared four crucial steps to Cover the Basics:

- 1- Train Against Phishing Scams: Equip your team to spot and report suspicious emails. Knowledge is power!
- 2- Require Strong Passwords: Strong passwords are your first line of defense. Make them mandatory for all users. For tips on creating strong passwords, visit <https://lnkd.in/grrGsQ4W>
- 3- Require Multifactor Authentication (MFA): Add an extra layer of security. MFA can significantly reduce the risk of unauthorized access.
- 4- Keep Software Updated: Promptly install security updates and patches to keep your systems protected. Don't let outdated systems be your weak link!

Let's work together to create a safer digital environment.

#CybersecurityAwarenessMonth #NolaOIG



Office of Inspector General City of New Orleans

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15m •

Inspector General Ed Michel received a special visit this week from a group of his students at [Tulane University](#). Beyond his role with the OIG, IG Michel is dedicated to shaping the next generation of leaders by developing and instructing courses on Risk Based Management and Critical Infrastructure.

On Tuesday, he joined his students on a tour of the Federal Reserve Bank, which houses the OIG, for a closer look at financial services, a significant component of our nation's critical infrastructure.

Thank you to the FRB for hosting us and providing such an informative experience, and thank you to the students for asking such insightful questions! We're encouraged by these students' eagerness to help protect the systems, assets, and networks vital to maintaining a functional society.

#NOLAIG #Education #TulaneUniversity



OIG CITIZENS ACADEMY

In October, the OIG graduated seven City leaders from our Citizens Academy. The OIG Citizens Academy is an engaging three-week program that, through discussion and education, gives participants a closer look at the OIG's role and mission. Upon completion, attendees have a greater understanding of how the OIG assesses and mitigates fraud, waste, abuse, and public corruption and the proper protocols for reporting fraudulent behavior. The Citizens Academy also helps build rapport and ensure healthy and productive interactions with City employees.

