

# **MONTHLY REPORT**

**JANUARY 2026**



# **OIG**

**NEW ORLEANS  
OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL**

**EDWARD MICHEL, CIG  
INSPECTOR GENERAL**

# ADMINISTRATION DIVISION

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# 2,074

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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 <sup>1</sup>	Anticipated <sup>2</sup> Completion Date
NOAB Contract Audit	30-Day Review	February 2026
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	Supervisory Review	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
<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	Fieldwork	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.

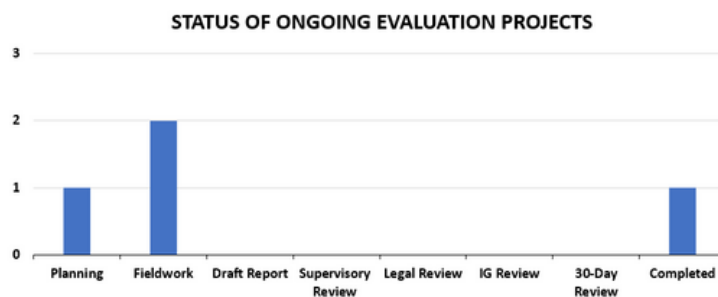


# INSPECTIONS & EVALUATIONS DIVISION

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.

## NEW HIRE! Adam Bradley joins the OIG

The OIG is excited to welcome Adam Bradley to our team. Adam began his role as an OIG Evaluator in November 2025, bringing years of experience in nonprofit administration and public health research and evaluation. He holds a Master of Public Health as well as Bachelor's degrees in Biology and Spanish. He is fluent in Spanish.



The following projects are recently released or in process:

- NOPD Overtime
- NORD Booster Clubs and Athletic Teams Resources
- Equipment Maintenance Division Fleet Management
- Illegal Dumping Policies and Enforcement

### 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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# 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 <sub>1</sub>	Anticipated Completion Date <sub>2</sub>
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NOPD Overtime

Completed

Jan. 15, 2026

**Summary of Objectives:** To determine whether NOPD policies and procedures for overtime are consistent with best practices and effective in preventing payroll fraud.

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.

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.

Illegal Dumping Policies and  
Enforcement

Planning

Ongoing

**Summary of Objectives:** To determine whether the Department of Sanitation and other pertinent agencies have policies, procedures and internal controls to respond to illegal dumping complaints and reduce the occurrence of future illegal dumping events.

**NOTE:** The Traffic Camera Safety Program Follow-Up Report was released in January, but its release was included in the OIG's December 2025 Monthly, published Jan. 13, 2026.

### 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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## ONGOING PROSECUTIONS:

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

**Thomas**, a former SWBNO employee, has a pre-trial hearing on Feb. 9, 2026, after he was appointed a new attorney in late 2025. Thomas was arrested by Louisiana State Police Troop NOLA in December 2024 as part of a joint investigation into brass and copper thefts from SWBNO.

**Willis**, a former City tow truck driver, is scheduled to appear in court Feb. 11, 2026, in connection with two counts each of malfeasance in office, obstruction of justice, and injuring public records. Troop NOLA arrested Willis in July 2025 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 in September 2025 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

The Investigation Division received 19 complaints, obtained two search warrants, and issued two records requests.

# 2026 BUDGET

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**Total 2026 Appropriation \$ 4,398,625**

<b>Expenditures</b>	<b>Spent YTD</b>
<b>Personnel</b>	<b>\$ 253,598</b>
<b>Operating</b>	<b>\$ 10,563</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 264,161</b>
<b>Remaining Balance</b>	<b>\$ 4,134,464</b>



# SOCIAL MEDIA



Facebook: @NewOrleansOIG



X: @NOLAOIG



New Orleans Office of Inspector General is with Metropolitan Crime Commission of New Orleans.

January 20 at 4:16 PM · 🌐

Today, Inspector General Ed Michel had the pleasure of hearing from David I. Courcelle, newly appointed as U.S. Attorney for the Eastern District of Louisiana, and the guest speaker for this month's meeting of the Metropolitan Crime Commission.

The OIG wishes Courcelle success in his new role! Our office looks forward to continuing our strong partnership with the U.S. Attorney's Office as we work together to hold accountable those engaged in fraud, waste, and corruption in New Orleans.



New Orleans OIG @NOLAOIG · Jan 23



Thank you to the Mortgage Lenders Association Greater New Orleans Chapter for inviting Inspector General Ed Michel to present on the latest work of the OIG. We appreciate the engagement from this attentive (and festive) crowd!

#NolaOIG



# SOCIAL MEDIA

 **Instagram:** @NewOrleansOIG  **LinkedIn:** @OfficeofInspectorGeneralCityofNewOrleans



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

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2w • 

Our latest public letter found the City and the NOPD did not have a sufficient or consistent process for budgeting and monitoring the NOPD's overtime. This lack of proper oversight by the City and the NOPD led to an increased risk of payroll fraud and financial waste.

See our video series for the highlights, including key findings and recommendations for improvement.




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See our video series for the highlights, including key findings and recommendations for improvement.

Take a brief look at our recommendations below!

