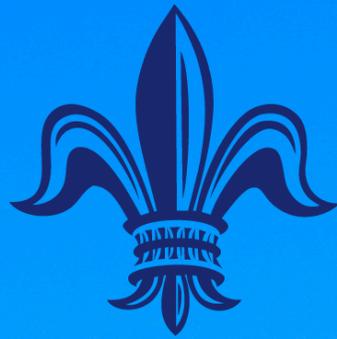


MONTHLY REPORT

FEBRUARY 2026



OIG

**NEW ORLEANS
OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL**

**EDWARD MICHEL, CIG
INSPECTOR GENERAL**

ADMINISTRATION DIVISION

NEW INTERN! Birney Sherard joins the OIG

The OIG is excited to announce Birney Sherard has joined our team as an Intelligence Analyst Intern. Sherard holds Bachelor's degrees in Psychology, Homeland Security, and Spanish. Her experience includes serving as a research assistant for the Tulane Political Science Department, a lab manager and member for a Psycho-Oncology Research Program, and an investigations, diligence, and compliance intern for Kroll.

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



2,077

Number of registered X followers

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	Completed	March 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	IG 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
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.

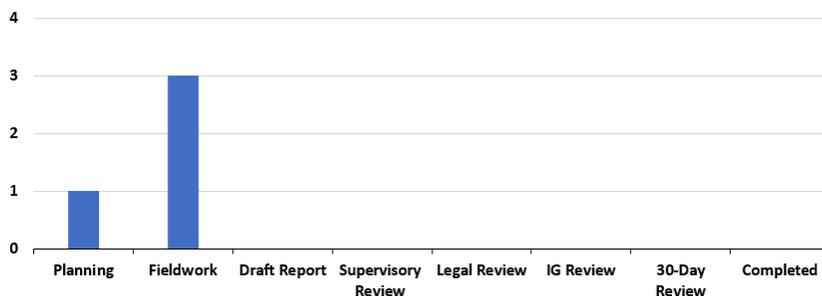
INSPECTIONS & EVALUATIONS DIVISION

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.

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.

STATUS OF ONGOING EVALUATION PROJECTS



The following projects are recently released or in process:

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

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 Completion Date ₂
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	Fieldwork	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.		
SWBNO Employee Overtime	Planning	Ongoing
Summary of Objectives: To identify trends in overtime usage; review polices, procedures, and internal controls to determine whether resources are used effectively; and determine whether the SWBNO's budget is sufficient to account for anticipated personnel needs.		

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 following criminal prosecutions are pending: former Mayor LaToya Cantrell and Jeffrey Vappie, as well as Gabriel Thomas and Michael Willis Jr.

Thomas, a former SWBNO employee, had a pre-trial hearing on Feb. 9, 2026. 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, appeared in court Feb. 11, 2026, and has a motions hearing scheduled for March 19, 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 opened six complaints, opened one investigation, secured one search warrant, and initiated nine records requests.

2026 BUDGET

Total 2026 Appropriation \$ 4,398,625

Expenditures	Spent YTD
Personnel	\$ 504,623
Operating	\$ 13,386
Total	\$ 518,009
Remaining Balance	\$ 3,880,616

SOCIAL MEDIA



Facebook and Instagram: [@NewOrleansOIG](#)

X: [@NOLAOIG](#)

LinkedIn: [@OfficeofInspectorGeneralCityofNewOrleans](#)

YouTube: [@NOLAOIG1737](#)

Connect with the OIG on socials for the following:

- Our latest projects and initiatives
- Updates and news
- Presentations and outreach
- Tips for fraud prevention
- Educational and career opportunities

