

**NEW ORLEANS OFFICE OF
INSPECTOR GENERAL**



ANNUAL REPORT

2025

EDWARD MICHEL, CIG
Inspector General

Prevention  Efficiency  Integrity 



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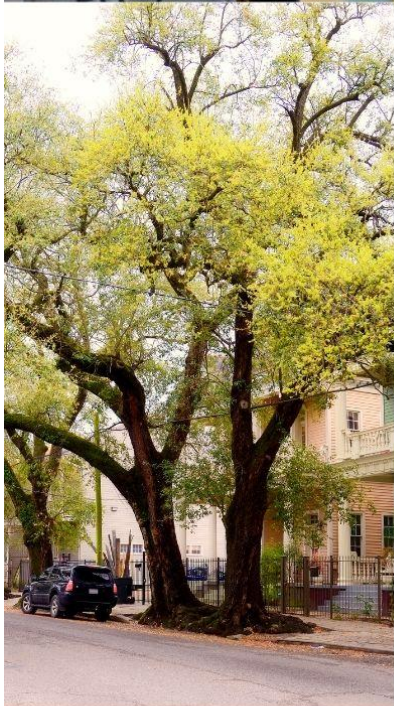


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This report complies with City Code Sec. 2-1120(9), which directs the Inspector General to "report annually to the Ethics Review Board on the activities of the Office of Inspector General for the preceding calendar year." Copies of the report are to be distributed to the Mayor, City Council, the media, and the public according to the ordinance's directives.

LETTER TO THE ERB

Pursuant to the New Orleans Home Rule Charter and applicable ordinances, the Office of Inspector General is honored to provide you with a copy of our 2025 Annual Report. The Annual Report summarizes the full scope of work and other activities engaged in by the OIG during the previous calendar year.

The 2025 Annual Report highlights seven published reports, reviews, and public letters as well as OIG initiatives and investigations that have facilitated meaningful change and provided detailed recommendations for improving the services and operations of our City. The OIG's 2025 projects have resulted in guidance for stronger City policies and procedures, better oversight of City resources, a path for reforming the troubled Department of Safety & Permits, and the removal and/or prosecution of City employees who use their public positions for personal gain.

In 2025, our office identified more than \$3.9 million in potential savings and/or economic loss prevented (PELP) and more than \$122.9 million in at-risk funds. The OIG's 2025 operating cost of \$3.8 million places the City's Return on Investment at more than 104%.

This report also showcases the professionalism and ongoing training of OIG staff, as evidenced by the quality and impact of their work. The projects described on the following pages demonstrate our dedication to identifying and preventing fraud, waste, abuse, and public corruption in City government and by City contractors.

I appreciate your support and dedication to ensuring the success of the OIG. I am also grateful to each of you for allowing me the honor of continuing to serve as the Inspector General. This position provides opportunities to improve the City we love, and I do not take that for granted.

I also extend our sincere appreciation to the City agencies, boards, commissions, and other external stakeholders to include the U.S. Attorney's Office, Louisiana Attorney General, U.S. Department of Homeland Security/Office of Inspector General, Federal Bureau of Investigation, Louisiana State Police, Louisiana State Licensing Board for Contractors, and Metropolitan Crime Commission that support our efforts to mitigate fraud, waste, and abuse. My office is honored to serve the City and its taxpayers by ensuring good stewardship over their funds and resources.

Sincerely,



Edward Michel, CIG
Inspector General

MESSAGE FROM THE INSPECTOR GENERAL

We are excited to share that we have announced and/or released seven reports, reviews, and public letters in 2025. In addition, we initiated five projects set for completion in early 2026, opened 14 investigations, and gave 35 presentations to City employees and engaged citizens.

Through our work in 2025, our staff has identified more than \$3.9 million in potential savings and/or economic loss prevented, a significant amount of taxpayer money. The OIG budget for 2025 was \$4.5 million, but our actual cost was \$3.8 million. This resulted in a 104% Return on Investment for the City in 2025, ensuring that the OIG remains a valuable investment for the City. In addition, the office identified \$122.9 million in funds at risk for fraud, waste, and abuse due to lack of proper oversight.

The OIG's role in increasing transparency and accountability of City government and City contractors is especially important as the City contends with a substantial budget shortfall.

A few highlights of our work in 2025:

- The OIG identified the need for **increased oversight of \$122.9 million in taxpayer funds** allocated to outside agencies like the Orleans Parish Sheriff's Office and Orleans Parish Communications District. Following OIG recommendations, the City Council began working on an ordinance to require outside agencies to track expenditures in the City's BRASS system, allowing greater oversight of New Orleans' taxpayer money.
- The City's **former Mayor and her bodyguard were charged** with fraud and obstruction of justice in an 18-count federal indictment facilitated by an OIG investigation. The indictment demonstrates our office's commitment to partnering with other agencies to hold public officials accountable for misuse of their offices. The federal charges also show the high quality of work performed by our staff.
- The OIG **revealed fraudulent actions taken by the former director of the Orleans Parish Communication District (OPCD)**, who is responsible for overseeing the City's 911 system. Our investigation led to the official's conviction on state charges and to changes to the OPCD board's process for approving high-dollar contracts.
- The OIG continued to **support local, state, and federal agencies in holding accountable** multiple other City workers and contractors who used their positions for personal gain, including former Department of Safety & Permits (S&P) inspectors, New Orleans Sewerage and Water Board of New Orleans (SWBNO) employees, New Orleans Police Department (NOPD) officers, and a City tow truck driver.
- The OIG revealed the Department of Safety and Permits (S&P) did not have adequate protocols for inspections performed by **City-licensed third party inspectors**, who perform the bulk of inspections in the City. The audit also found that third party inspectors failed to comply with the S&P policies and procedures that were in place, leaving the City vulnerable to significant public safety hazards, including catastrophic and even fatal events, as well as litigation.



- In addition, the OIG issued **detailed recommendations for reform of S&P**. This department is critical to ensuring public safety and the functionality of our City. We believe that such reform is possible and that our recommendations, when implemented, will foster effective practices, boost accountability, and lessen the potential for corruption at this essential City agency.
- A regular peer review conducted by the **Association of Inspectors General (AIG) found our office fully compliant** with national standards for Offices of Inspectors General. The AIG conducted a thorough review over the course of a three-day visit, and we are pleased that the review team unanimously determined our office adheres to stringent national standards and best practices.

Our office continues to be one of the most well-rounded and productive OIGs in the country, with strong operational capacity and a high number of impactful reports and public letters. Our office is able to accomplish this level of work by hiring and retaining employees with diverse work experience, including individuals who hold professional certifications and academic degrees such as Certified Public Accountant (CPA), Juris Doctor (J.D.), and Doctor of Public Health (Dr.PH), and by prioritizing the recruitment of highly educated and experienced staff. We also take pride in empowering our staff to continually expand their skills, tap into new talents, and stay current with best practices through training opportunities. The OIG staff has doubled since my arrival, and we continue to recruit and invest in our staff through continuing education and well-deserved promotions.

In accordance with our values of transparency and accountability, the OIG also continues to raise awareness of our role, mission, initiatives, and tip line through a growing social media presence and a renewed focus on providing live presentations. Community engagement and connections with New Orleans citizens are vital to achieving our mission.

Our work saves taxpayer dollars while also improving the operations and services that impact our everyday lives. We continue to enhance citizens' confidence in the City to efficiently and effectively provide essential services.

I am honored to continue serving as your Inspector General and proud to work alongside you to create a stronger, safer, more efficient New Orleans.

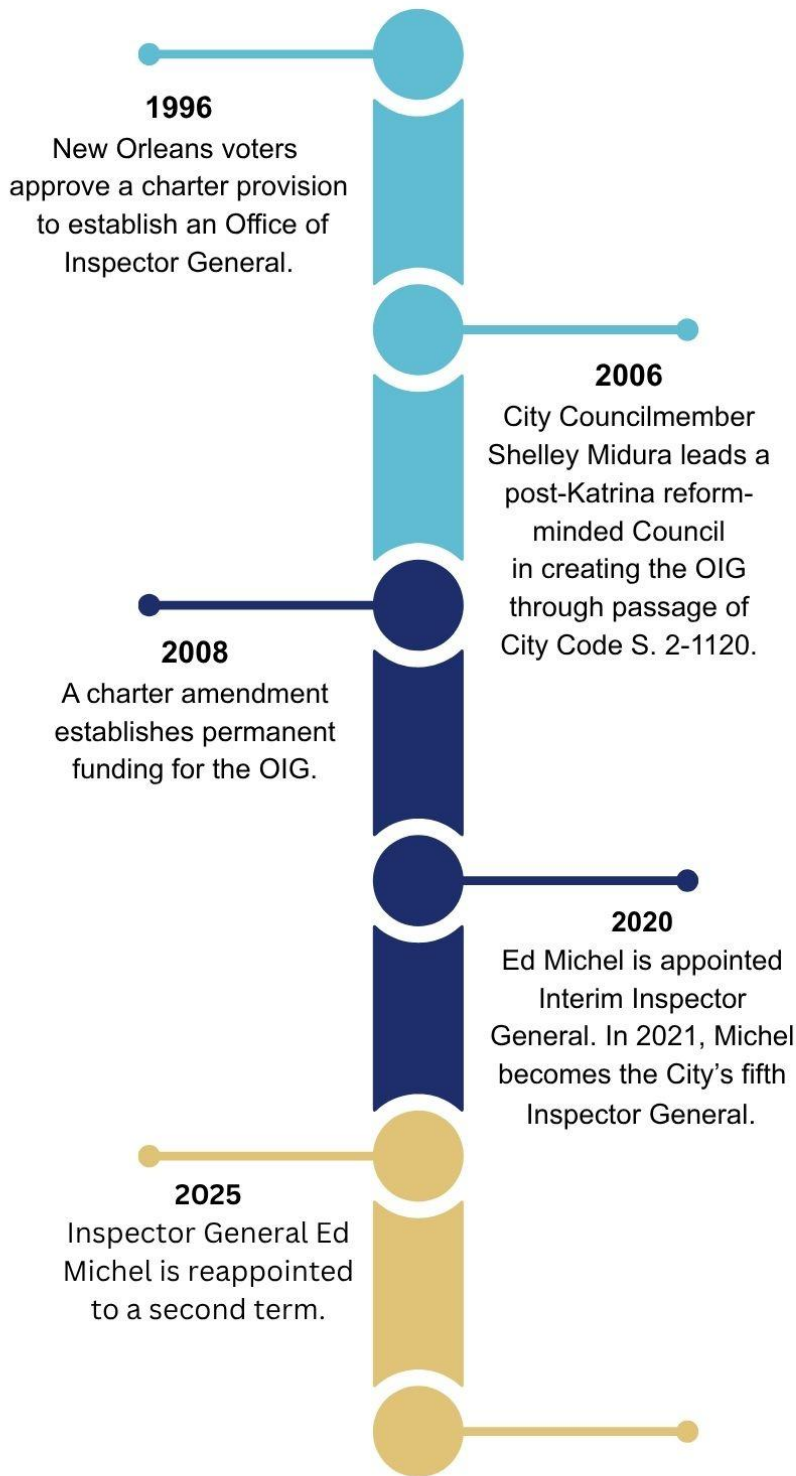
Sincerely,



Edward Michel, CIG
Inspector General



HISTORY OF THE OIG



Establishing Ordinance

The history of the New Orleans Office of Inspector General began in 1996, when the City's voters approved a charter provision allowing for the establishment of an OIG.

The City Council created the OIG over 10 years later as part of a post-Katrina push for improved government accountability.

The establishing legislation, City Code §2-1120, clearly outlined the purpose of the New Orleans Office of Inspector General: to establish and maintain a full-time program of oversight to prevent and detect fraud, waste, and abuse and to promote efficiency and effectiveness in city programs and operations. This oversight included audits, criminal and administrative investigations, inspections and evaluations, and monitoring.

Permanent Funding

A 2008 amendment established permanent funding for the OIG, with 0.75% of the City's general fund dedicated to the OIG, Independent Police Monitor, and Ethics Review Board. In 2016, a charter amendment separated that allocation among the three entities, with the OIG receiving 0.55% of the City's general fund.

MISSION & VISION OF THE OIG



MISSION

The OIG is an independent, nonpartisan body created to promote accountability, integrity, and efficiency in City government operations by preventing and detecting fraud, waste, and abuse. The OIG fulfills our mission by performing audits, inspections, evaluations, and investigations. In addition, the OIG routinely refers allegations of fraud or misconduct that may be criminal in nature to the appropriate federal, state, or local law enforcement agencies. In many instances, the OIG assists in the continuing investigation of these matters.

VISION

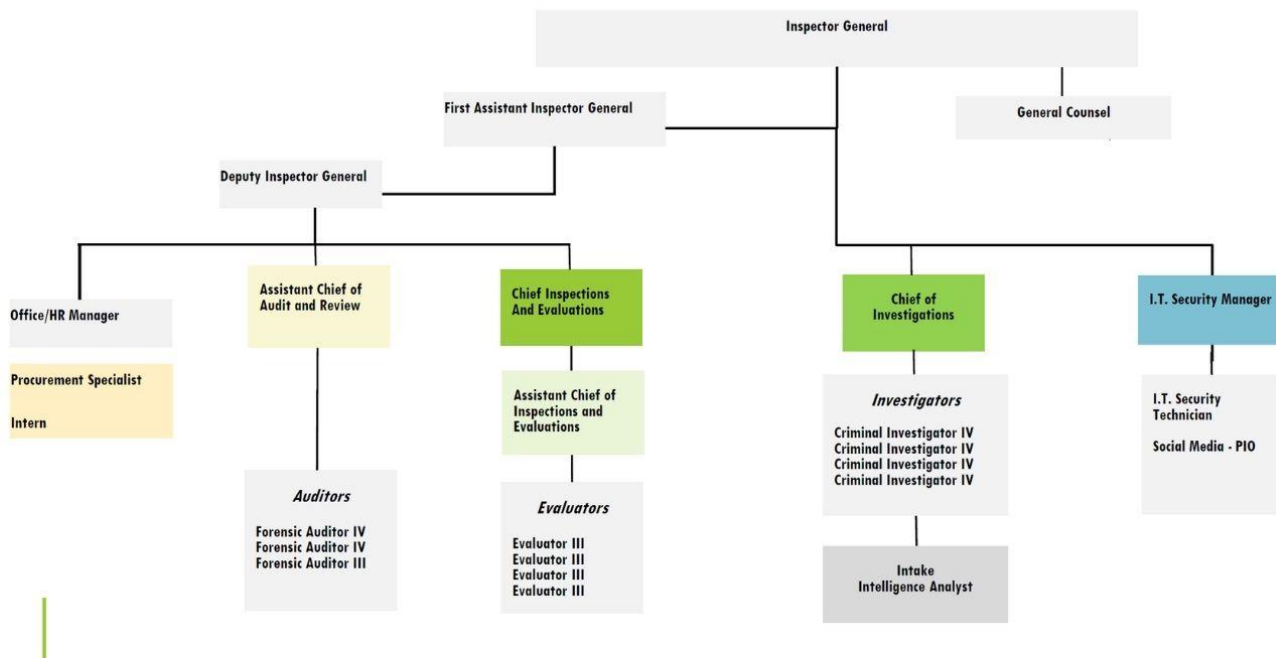
The vision of the OIG is to leverage limited resources by incorporating ingenuity and intelligence into every aspect of our operations. We achieve this through:

- An office culture that facilitates innovation, accountability, and transparency.
- A workforce of highly qualified staff with diverse skill sets bolstered by training and other learning opportunities.
- An infrastructure continually enhanced to better secure digital data and improve our technological capabilities. Our state-of-the-art infrastructure, combined with a diverse workforce, helps accomplish this vision.

“Today, the most widely accepted national model for attacking corruption while promoting public integrity is an independent office of inspector general. They are working around the country at every level of government. The pages of this annual report spell out the most recent body of work by the New Orleans OIG, which has been called, rightly, I believe, the “gold standard” of US IGs. The report is a goldmine for those intentionally targeting corruption in any city. As you read it, I encourage you to recall that every case of payroll fraud, police misconduct, abuse of office, etc., discovered and adjudicated in the report’s pages is at the same time a score for integrity and against corruption.”

-Dr. Michael Cowan, Loyola University professor and former chair of the Ethics Review Board

CURRENT STAFF



EDUCATION AND EXPERIENCE

The OIG staff collectively possess a wide range of skills, experience, and expertise, with backgrounds including law enforcement, information technology, accounting, political science, public administration, and communications. Our staff hold a number of undergraduate, graduate, and juris doctorate/doctoral degrees, as well as professional designations. We continue to enhance our workforce by seeking and hiring the most qualified candidates and increasing employees' technical skills through trainings and collaboration among departments.

PROFESSIONAL DESIGNATIONS HELD

- Certified Inspector General
- Certified Inspector General Auditor
- Certified Inspector General Evaluator
- Certified Inspector General Investigator
- Society for Human Resources Management
- Certified Fraud Examiner
- Certified Public Accountant
- Certified Internal Auditor
- Certified Fraud Specialist
- Cellebrite Mobile Forensics
- Cellebrite Certified Physical Analyst
- Certified Compliance and Ethics Professional

What makes the New Orleans OIG stand out?

The New Orleans OIG is among a small number of OIGs nationwide to include such a broad array of specialized departments. Our office includes audit, inspection and evaluation, investigation, information technology analysis, and intelligence analysis departments. Integrating all of these capabilities has given our office the ability to identify and mitigate threats at unprecedented levels.

EXECUTIVE LEADERSHIP

INSPECTOR GENERAL ED MICHEL, CIG



Inspector General Ed Michel is a New Orleans native with more than 30 years of experience in law enforcement, largely in the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ). During his 23-year tenure with the DOJ, Michel served in several leadership roles within the FBI, including Unit Chief of the Foreign Terrorist Tracking Task Force, Special Assistant to the Assistant Director, and Assistant Special Agent in Charge.

He holds a Master of Professional Studies and Bachelor of Arts in Paralegal Studies from Tulane University, where he shares his expertise as an adjunct professor.

Michel joined the New Orleans OIG in 2019 as First Assistant Inspector General for Criminal Investigations. He was appointed Inspector General in 2021 after serving as interim Inspector General. He was reappointed as Inspector General in March 2025.

Michel has a track record of leading diverse teams to identify and mitigate public corruption. During his tenure as the FBI's Supervisory Senior Resident Agent in Baton Rouge, he established FBI Baton Rouge as the primary law enforcement leader in the area and was awarded the Integrity Award from the Office of Inspector General, U.S. Health and Human Services for his relentless pursuit of fraud, waste, and abuse.

As Inspector General, Michel determines the strategic direction of the OIG and directs staff in achieving our mission to identify and mitigate fraud, waste, abuse, and public corruption.

"Inspector General Michel, together with investigators, auditors, and other dedicated staff, plays a crucial role in government operations. Their independent investigations into the use of public funds help reassure taxpayers that their money is managed responsibly and that leaders are held accountable for their actions."

- Ronal Serpas, former Chief of New Orleans Police

EXECUTIVE LEADERSHIP

FIRST ASSISTANT INSPECTOR GENERAL STEVEN KRUEGER



First Assistant Inspector General Steven Krueger holds more than 30 years of experience in federal law enforcement, including five years as a Forensic Chemist for the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) and more than 25 years as a Special Agent with the FBI.

He has investigated various crimes, including public corruption, and traveled the world managing post-blast crime scenes for the FBI Laboratory. He managed FBI Counterterrorism WMD Operations and Countermeasures programs at FBI Headquarters, supervised two FBI Resident Agencies in Southern Louisiana, and managed all criminal FBI investigations in Arkansas while overseeing the budget and administration of the FBI's Little Rock Division as the Assistant Special Agent in Charge.

He entered the ranks of the Federal Senior Executive Service in 2011, managing all instruction at the FBI Academy to new agents, the National Academy, and other instruction/training by FBI personnel.

Krueger holds a Master's in Inorganic Chemistry from the University of Maryland at College Park and a Bachelor's in Chemistry from the State University of New York at Fredonia. Subsequent to his retirement from the FBI, he taught Chemistry at the University of Louisiana at Lafayette.

As First Assistant Inspector General, Krueger provides direct support to the Inspector General in guiding the OIG's efforts to identify and mitigate public fraud, waste, and abuse.

FIRST ASSISTANT INSPECTOR GENERAL FOR LEGAL AFFAIRS AND GENERAL COUNSEL MICHAEL LAUGHLIN



First Assistant Inspector General for Legal Affairs/General Counsel Michael Laughlin joined the OIG in 2022. He holds more than 42 years of trial and appellate experience in state and federal courts throughout Louisiana.

His background includes providing legal expertise and representation for the City of New Orleans, notably serving as lead defense counsel for the City.

Laughlin earned a Bachelor's degree in Political Science from the University of New Orleans and a Juris Doctor from Loyola University School of Law.

In his role, Laughlin represents the OIG's interests in court proceedings, assists in the review and development of OIG policies and practices, and provides legal advice and counsel to OIG staff, legal review of OIG reports and letters, and legal support in critical day-to-day operations.

EXECUTIVE LEADERSHIP

DEPUTY INSPECTOR GENERAL OF AUDIT AND REVIEW ALISON BROYLES



Deputy Inspector General of Audit and Review Alison Broyles is the highest-ranking Classified Civil Service member in the OIG with 15 years of experience in our office, including two years as Chief of Audit and Review and a 2024 promotion to her current position. Her background also includes experience as an internal auditor and a senior auditor for firms and other businesses.

Broyles graduated with an Accounting degree and also received a Master's in Accounting from Louisiana State University. She is a Certified Public Accountant, Certified Fraud Examiner, Certified Inspector General Auditor, and Certified Inspector General.

As Deputy Inspector General of Audit and Review, Broyles plans and supervises all OIG audits, establishes Audit and Review Division priorities, develops and implements audit strategies, and guides a team of auditors. She also oversees the budget and manages the Purchasing and HR functions.

CHIEF OF INSPECTIONS AND EVALUATIONS PATRICE ROSE



Chief of Inspections and Evaluations Patrice Rose has 10 years of experience with the OIG, including nearly four years in her current position. Rose contributes 11 years of experience as an attorney. Prior to the OIG, she spent nearly 15 years as a program evaluator in both public and private sectors.

She holds a Bachelor's degree in Biology from Hampton University in Virginia, a Bachelor's degree in Interdisciplinary Natural Sciences (Chemistry), and a Master of Public Health from the University of South Florida. Rose earned her Juris Doctor from the Southern University Law Center in Baton Rouge.

Rose is a Certified Fraud Examiner, Certified Inspector General Evaluator, and Certified Compliance and Ethics Professional.

As Chief of Inspections and Evaluations, Rose assists in providing strategic direction for the OIG and supervises a team of inspectors and evaluators in planning, development, and implementation of projects.



EXECUTIVE LEADERSHIP

CHIEF OF INVESTIGATIONS
WILLIAM 'CHUCK' WILLIAMS



Chief of Inspections William “Chuck” Williams has more than 22 years of experience as an FBI Special Agent specializing in violent criminal enterprises, signals and open-source intelligence exploitation, and personnel and investigative risk assessment and mitigation. He has Bachelor’s and Master’s degrees in Science, as well as a Juris Doctor. Williams joined the OIG team in March 2025 as an Investigator and was promoted to Chief of Investigations in September 2025. In his current role, Williams leads a team of experienced investigators in developing, implementing, and monitoring investigations into potential fraud, waste, and abuse involving City resources. He assists the First Assistant Inspector General in developing short- and long-term goals for the Division and ensuring high-quality investigative work.

“The New Orleans Office of Inspector General continues to be a driving force in exposing and suppressing fraud, waste, and abuse of taxpayer funds and resources. The Metropolitan Crime Commission commends the staff of the Inspector General’s Office for their professionalism and dedication to the City of New Orleans.”

- Rafael Goyeneche III, President, Metropolitan Crime Commission



EXECUTIVE LEADERSHIP

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY MANAGER BOBBIE JONES



Information Technology Manager Bobbie Jones has been with the OIG since 2017.

Jones's background includes extensive information technology leadership experience, with more than a decade of civil service in information technology administration roles.

She holds a Master of Business Administration in Management Information Systems from the University of New Orleans. She is a Certified Cyber Crime Investigator and Examiner, a Certified Fraud Examiner, a CJIS Security Officer (LASO) for the OIG's NCIC accounts, a Certified Inspector General Investigator, and a Forensic Analyst.

In her role as Information Technology Manager, Jones leads and develops the OIG's IT strategies and ensures the office's computer and telecommunications systems, programs, and other technology remain current, operational, and secure.

OFFICE AND HUMAN RESOURCES MANAGER MIRA ROBERTS



Office and Human Resources Manager Mira Roberts joined the OIG team in 2024, contributing years of administrative and civil service experience to our office.

She holds Bachelor's and Master's degrees in Business Administration from the University of New Orleans, and she has earned several certifications in disaster management.

Mira's role with the OIG centers on administrative, operational, and HR management duties. These include managing recruitment and onboarding processes, creating and coordinating reports and training, performing HR-related tasks, and serving as the lead on performance planning and evaluations.



STAFFING NEWS

The OIG continues to grow, adding four new staff members in 2025. Since the issuance of our last Annual Report in March 2024, the OIG has welcomed aboard investigator Peter Brito and Evaluator Adam Bradley. Our new staff contributes a wide array of education, experience, and expertise to our office, enhancing our ability to identify and mitigate fraud, waste, and abuse in City government and by City contractors.

OATH OF OFFICE



In a June 2025 ceremony, the OIG swore in **new investigative staff**, including First Assistant Inspector General Steven Krueger, Chief of Investigations William “Chuck” Williams, and Investigators Larry Robinson and Peter Brito.

The event included remarks by Inspector General Ed Michel and Dr. Dawn Broussard, then-Chairperson of the Ethics Review Board.

PROMOTIONS



Daniel Pattison, a forensic auditor with nearly 15 years of experience at the OIG, was promoted to Assistant Chief of Audit and Review.

Meghan Ragany, an evaluator with 10 years of experience at the OIG, was promoted to Assistant Chief of Inspections and Evaluations.



William “Chuck” Williams, hired as an OIG investigator in early 2025, was promoted to Chief of Investigations.

PEER REVIEW

A regular peer review conducted by the Association of Inspectors General (AIG) in July 2025 found our office fully compliant with national standards for Offices of Inspectors General. The New Orleans OIG is subject to peer review every three years by the AIG, a national organization that standardizes practices, policies, and ethics, and establishes professional qualifications and certifications, and licensing for Offices of Inspectors General.

The AIG Peer Review Team visited the New Orleans OIG on July 21-23 to perform an independent, qualitative review of the operations of the OIG's Audit & Review, Investigation, and Inspections & Evaluations Divisions. The review assessed the OIG's compliance with AIG and U.S. Government Accountability Office standards, including the AIG's Principles and Standards for Offices of Inspector General and the GAO's Government Auditing Standards.

The Peer Review encompassed OIG operations, resulting work products, related file materials chosen from closed audits and investigations, and completed inspections and evaluations, between January 1, 2021, and December 31, 2023, for all three Divisions.

The Peer Review's scope also included the Divisions' compliance with their relevant policy and process manuals and procedural guides, staff qualifications, and professional training requirements. AIG Peer Reviewers examined selected case files and interviewed OIG staff from the three Divisions. All interviews were conducted in confidence and without any limitation on scope or time. Lastly, the Peer Review assessed supervisory review and quality control over the work product, reporting of results, and the OIG's relationship and communications with outside agencies.



"It is the unanimous conclusion of the Peer Review Team that AD, ID, and I&E met all current and relevant AIG and GAO standards for the review period."

-AIG Peer Review Team

2025 PUBLISHED PROJECTS & INVESTIGATIONS

REPORTS & LETTERS RELEASED

Public Letter: NOPD's LIBRS Compliance

Public Letter: Reporting Requirements for Outside Agencies Receiving City Funds

Report: Department of Safety and Permits Third Party Inspections Audit

Public Letter: City of New Orleans Emergency Procurement Policies and Procedures

Public Letter: NORD Commission and NORD Foundation Annual Audit Requirements

Review: Department of Safety and Permits Permitting and Inspections

Public Letter: Formal Disciplinary Investigation into Allegations of Cheating in NOPD Promotional Exams

INVESTIGATIONS & INQUIRIES

Criminal Action: Former Mayor and her bodyguard indicted

Criminal Action: Former Orleans Parish Communication District Director convicted and sentenced

Criminal Action: Former NOPD Sergeant sentenced

Criminal Action: Former SWBNO Special Agent and Reserve NOPD Officer convicted and sentenced

Criminal Action: City Tow Truck Driver arrested and indicted

Ongoing prosecutions: Former third-party inspector and former SWBNO employee

Investigation: Office of Homelessness Director Assault Allegations Internal Investigation Process

Investigation: Formal Disciplinary Investigation into Allegations of Cheating in NOPD Promotional Exams

Administrative actions: Fraudulent contractors lost licenses and Qualifying Party Statuses

Inquiry: NOPD contract for Special Operations Division

Inquiry: Uncollected debts owed to SWBNO

2025 POTENTIAL
SAVINGS IDENTIFIED:

\$3.9 MILLION

Potential Savings Identified refers to expenditures that could be reduced if proper and/or more efficient measures are used.

2025 AT-RISK
FUNDS IDENTIFIED:

\$122.9 MILLION

At-risk funds are those at high risk of being misspent, wasted, or misappropriated due to insufficient oversight.

IMPACT OVERVIEW



DID YOU KNOW?

Return On Investment = the amount of profit or loss directly related to an expense



In **2025**, the OIG cost the taxpayers of New Orleans **\$3.8 million**, which is **equal to the cost of each citizen of New Orleans purchasing an order of beignets and a large café au lait from Café Du Monde.**

OIG AT THE COURTHOUSE

Mayor LaToya Cantrell indicted in historic federal investigation

New Orleans Mayor LaToya Cantrell was indicted by a federal grand jury, becoming the first mayor to face federal charges while still in office.

New Orleans tow truck driver accused of accepting cash in exchange for not towing cars

Sewerage & Water Board employee sentenced in fraud scheme

Former NOPD Sgt. Todd Morrell sentenced to probation, restitution for wire fraud charges

Former New Orleans 911 chief Tyrell Morris sentenced to 1 year for covering up his 2023 crash

The OIG Investigations Division employs veteran law enforcement officers with decades of experience. Our staff regularly conducts thorough investigations using sophisticated techniques, including data analysis, and obtains search warrants to gather evidence. In 2025, the OIG opened 14 investigations, made 72 record requests, and executed seven search warrants.

The OIG's strong investigative work and partnerships with federal, state, and local law enforcement agencies have resulted in criminal charges and convictions. In 2025 alone, OIG investigations led to two arrests, two indictments, and two convictions. These cases focused on holding public employees, including some of the City's highest-ranking officials, accountable for using their positions for personal gain.

In 2025, our investigative work also led to 13 suspensions and/or revocations of licensure and seven suspensions and/or losses of Qualifying Party status for fraudulent contractors. These administrative actions are the result of our high-quality investigative work as well as our strong partnerships with state and local licensing agencies. Holding corrupt contractors accountable is essential to protecting life and property in New Orleans.

"The U.S. Attorney's Office for the Eastern District of Louisiana remains committed to the mission of the U.S. Department of Justice to enforce the law, defend the interests of the United States, ensure public safety against threats both foreign and domestic, to prevent and control crime, seek just punishment for those guilty of unlawful behavior, and ensure the fair and impartial administration of justice for all Americans. Collaboration with federal, state, and local law enforcement agencies is essential to achieving that mission. The New Orleans Office of Inspector General has proven a valuable partner in our work to hold accountable those who use their public offices for personal gain in our District."

-David I. Courcelle, United States Attorney, Eastern District of Louisiana

INQUIRIES

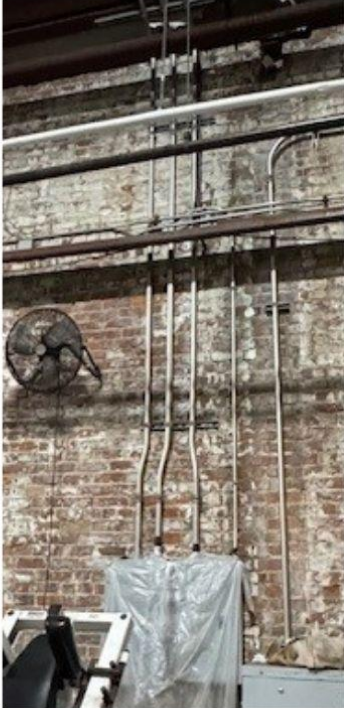
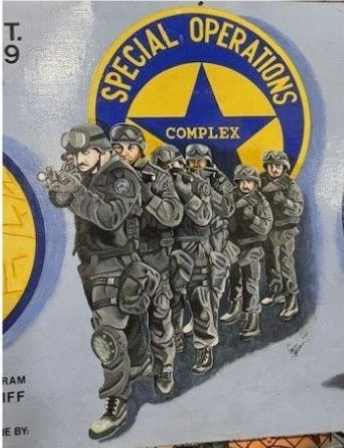
The OIG continually works to ensure the efficient and effective use of City resources. Our impact extends beyond the published reports and letters to include inquiries into potential waste. In 2025, the Investigations Division made inquiries into a contract for repairs to the NOPD’s Special Operations Division and the SWBNO’s pursuit of uncollected fines.

NOPD contract for repairs

Inquiry led to \$73K in savings, enhanced repairs to Special Operations Division facility

In 2025, OIG investigators made inquiries into a contract for repairs to the New Orleans Police Department’s Special Operations Division (SOD) building. The SOD manages the NOPD’s elite specialized units, such as the Violent Offenders Warrant Squad and Bomb Disposal Unit, among others, and houses equipment that can prove essential in a crisis.

As of early 2025, parts of the building, including the main entrance and roof, had fallen into disrepair and remained in poor condition despite there being a contract in place for repairs. Inquiries made by OIG investigators led to a new contract that saved more than \$73,000 in City funds and included more substantial repairs to the SOD facility. Photos below show some of those repairs, including functional entranceways and areas where roof leaks were previously impacting electrical wiring.



SWBNO’s pursuit of uncollected fines

In 2025, the OIG reviewed SWBNO’s most overdue accounts to assess whether SWBNO was actively pursuing unpaid funds. The OIG determined that most of the accounts examined were current except for Equity Media, LLC, which still owed \$9,450 from October 2023 and had made no progress on a proposed barter agreement. While the OIG did not conduct an independent investigation, we encouraged the SWBNO to continue collection efforts on this and other overdue accounts to ensure responsible stewardship of public funds.

PARTNERSHIP & COLLABORATION

Strong partnerships are essential to the OIG's mission and help us operate with maximum efficiency and impact. By working closely with other agencies as well as nonprofit organizations, community groups, and stakeholders, our office is able to extend our reach and make the most of our limited resources. These collaborations strengthen our ability to detect and prevent fraud, waste, abuse, and corruption across the public sector.



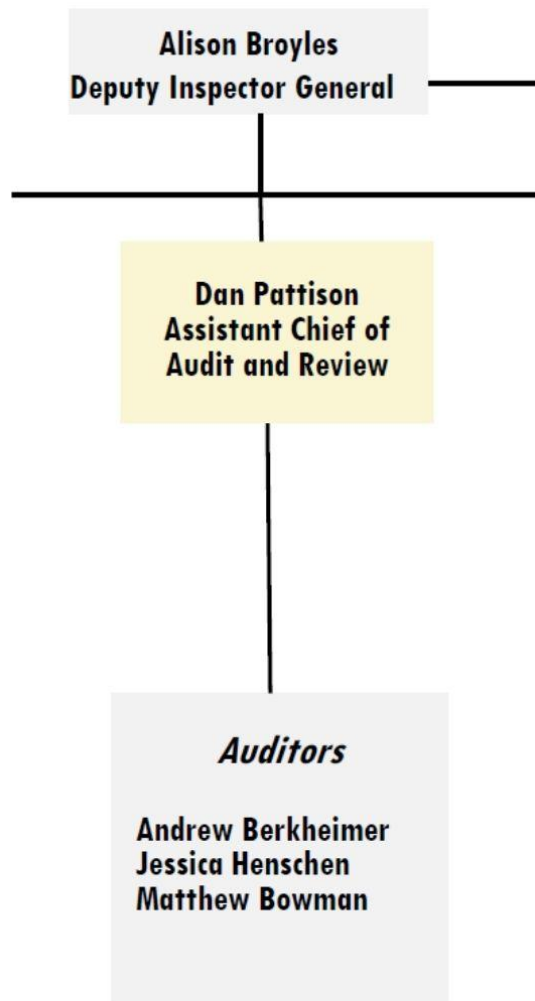
"The New Orleans Office of Inspector General is a valued partner for the LSLBC as we continue our joint efforts to protect the public from unlawful and fraudulent actions by contractors. Our partnership with the OIG is important to protecting the integrity of the construction industry, enhancing public trust, and safeguarding homes, businesses, and essential infrastructure from the threat of fraudulent behavior in contracting."

-Brad Hassert, Executive Director, Louisiana State Licensing Board for Contractors

AUDIT & REVIEW

Performance, financial audits, compliance audits and attestations

The Audit and Review Division conducts performance audits, financial audits, compliance audits, and attestations of City programs and operations, as well as tests for appropriate internal controls and compliance with laws, regulations, and other requirements.



MEET THE TEAM

Dan Pattison, Assistant Chief of Audit & Review

- Joined OIG in 2010
- Over 15 years of accounting, auditing, and supervisory experience
- Certified Public Accountant, Certified Fraud Examiner, and Certified Inspector General Auditor
- Bachelor's degree in Accounting

Andrew Berkheimer, Forensic Auditor

- Joined OIG in 2021
- Experience as Sole Proprietor of auditing firm, Louisiana Legislative Financial Auditor, City of New Orleans Auditor
- Certified Public Accountant, Certified Fraud Examiner, and Certified Inspector General Auditor
- Bachelor's degrees in Management, Legal Studies in Business, and Political Science as well as Master of Accounting

Matthew Bowman, Forensic Auditor

- Joined OIG in 2023
- Experience as Senior Auditor at a CPA firm
- Certified Fraud Examiner and Certified Inspector General Auditor
- Bachelor's degree in Accounting and Master of Business Administration

Jessica Henschen, Forensic Auditor

- Joined OIG in 2024
- Over 15 years of accounting, auditing, and supervisory experience
- Certified Public Accountant, Certified Fraud Examiner, and Certified Inspector General Auditor
- Bachelor's degrees in Finance and International Affairs and Master of Accounting

A **forensic auditor** conducts audits and reviews of projects and programs involving the expenditure of public funds. This role evaluates financial processes used by City government, making recommendations for improvements to help identify and mitigate fraud, waste, and abuse.

AUDIT & REVIEW

Public Letter: Reporting Requirements for Outside Agencies Receiving City Funds

RELEASED: MARCH 2025

BACKGROUND: The City’s 2025 adopted budget allocated approximately \$123 million to these agencies. This letter’s purpose was to determine the adequacy of City of New Orleans policies and procedures related to oversight of City funds distributed to outside agencies and to verify if the City of New Orleans complied with existing policies and procedures

FINDINGS: OIG auditors found that, despite a recent ordinance increasing oversight, the City still received limited information regarding millions of dollars in City money disbursed to outside agencies. The aforementioned City ordinance, which took effect in 2024, increased City oversight of the nine outside agencies that receive the bulk of these funds. However, the information received by the city remained inadequate for a thorough understanding of the funds’ usage.

Figure 2. General Fund Distributions to Outside Agencies

Agency Name	2025	% of General Fund
OPSO	\$64,642,985	7.37%
OPCD	\$17,386,185	1.98%
District Attorney	\$12,361,389	1.41%
Criminal and District Court	\$7,737,666	0.88%
Municipal and Traffic Court	\$7,137,240	0.81%
Clerk of Criminal District Court	\$4,782,130	0.54%
Coroner’s Office	\$4,417,118	0.50%
Juvenile Court	\$3,322,199	0.38%
Registrar of Voters	\$481,811	0.05%
Judicial Retirement	\$364,000	0.04%
Museum of Art	\$283,851	0.03%
Total Outside Agency Distributions	\$122,916,574	13.99%

RECOMMENDATIONS: The City Council should amend City Code to require these agencies report their spending of City funds in the Budget, Requisition, and Accounting Services System, or BRASS, the procurement platform used by the City of New Orleans. The use of BRASS would ensure outside agencies' expenses are reported to the City timely, as well as provide transparency for each expense. -Otherwise, the City Council should amend City code to require any outside agency that does not use BRASS to submit general ledger details of their monthly spending of City funds. This would significantly increase transparency.

“Each year, the City allocates substantial amounts of taxpayer funds to outside agencies, yet these agencies are not held to the same standards of financial reporting as other City entities. It is essential that the City gain proper oversight over these City-generated monies to ensure efficient and effective use of funds.”

– Inspector General Ed Michel

AUDIT & REVIEW

Report: Safety and Permits Third Party Inspections Audit

RELEASE DATE: APRIL 2025

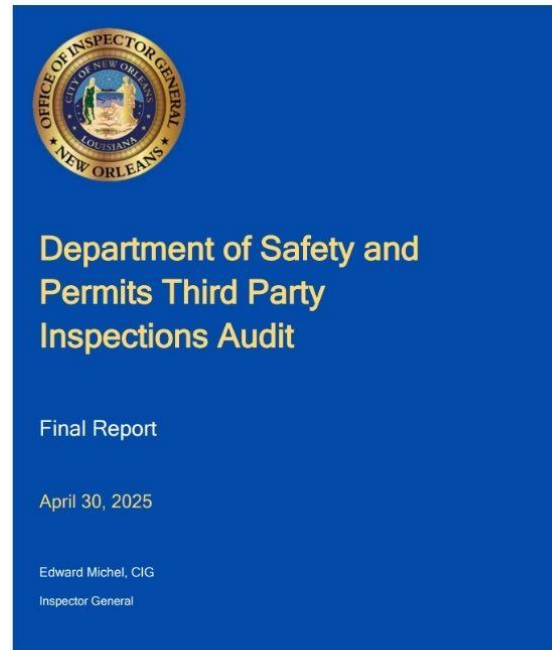
BACKGROUND: The OIG conducted a review of inspections performed by third-party inspectors.

PURPOSE: To find out if S&P had adequate policies and procedures for third-party inspections and to ensure that third-party inspectors complied with those policies and procedures.

WHY IT MATTERS: S&P inspections are essential to ensuring public safety. Due to understaffing, S&P relies on third-party inspectors to conduct most permit inspections. The City does not hold the same level of control over third-party inspectors as City inspectors. However, the City does have written policies and procedures for inspections performed by third-party inspectors.

FINDINGS:

- ➔ S&P **lacked adequate protocols** for third-party inspections.
- ➔ In addition, third-party inspectors **failed to comply** with the S&P policies and procedures that were in place.
- ➔ S&P **had not hired a full-time Compliance Officer**, as recommended in the OIG's 2022 report on City inspections. A Compliance Officer would review inspections performed by both City and third-party inspectors.
- ➔ Third-party inspectors **did not submit reports for 44% of the inspections tested** and did not consistently submit the required photographic documentation for each inspection.
- ➔ S&P **approved inspections** submitted by third-party inspectors **who lacked active City licenses**. In addition, S&P did not confirm if third-party inspectors named the City as an additional insured party on their certificate of liability insurance.
- ➔ S&P **did not implement inspection checklists** for third-party inspectors to complete and submit for each inspection. Third-party inspectors did not submit inspection checklists for any of the inspections tested.
- ➔ S&P **did not consistently hold quarterly meetings** with third-party inspectors and did not maintain or distribute a written record of meeting discussions, as required by S&P policy. The meetings and written recaps intend to inform inspectors of the latest S&P policies and any permitting and inspection issues.
- ➔ S&P personnel **did not consistently enter required information and documentation** into its Land Management Software (LAMA) when approving permit inspections submitted by third-party inspectors.



AUDIT & REVIEW

Report: Safety and Permits Third Party Inspection Audit

OIG auditors also noted that City Code allowed contractors to directly request inspections from third-party inspectors, which increased the opportunity for contractors to select a third-party inspector **willing to accept kickbacks** in exchange for a passed inspection.

RECOMMENDATIONS:



S&P should create a full-time Compliance Officer position, whose primary responsibilities include performing quality reviews of inspections, as well as Certificate of Occupancy issuance. As part of the quality review process, the Compliance Officer and/or S&P supervisors should conduct randomized onsite quality checks for inspections performed by third-party inspectors.



S&P should implement a uniform inspection report template that third-party inspectors are required to submit for each inspection.



S&P should ensure that third-party inspectors cannot submit inspections if their City licenses are expired, suspended, or revoked.



S&P should implement inspection checklists for each type of inspection and require third-party inspectors to submit a completed checklist for each inspection.



S&P should directly communicate policy to third-party inspectors at Quarterly Meetings.



S&P should perform regular quality reviews of inspections, as well as Certificate of Occupancy issuance, to ensure S&P personnel properly review and upload required documentation to LAMA for all inspections.



The City should consider modifying the City Code to place S&P in charge of receiving and randomly assigning requests for third-party inspectors.

“It is imperative that S&P ensure third-party inspectors perform inspections in compliance with S&P policies and procedures. Failure to follow these protocols can result in building collapses, injury or death, or damage to property impacting the City, its citizens, and its many visitors.”

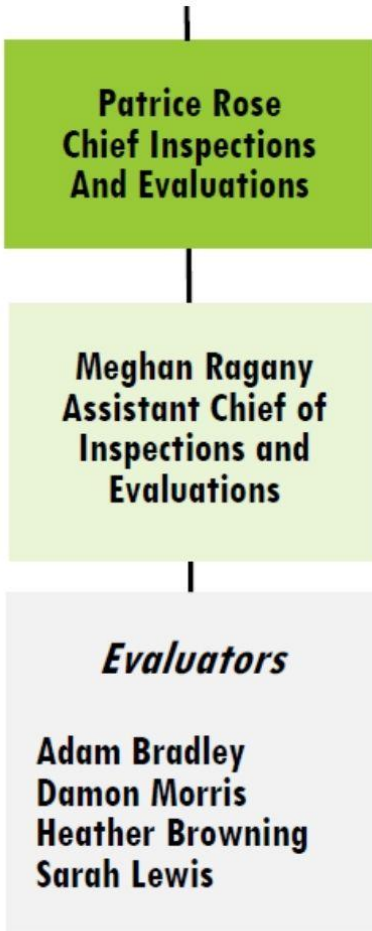
– Inspector General Ed Michel



INSPECTIONS & EVALUATIONS

Inspections, evaluations, and performance reviews

The goal of the Inspections and Evaluations Division is to increase the efficiency, effectiveness, transparency, and accountability of City programs, agencies, and operations. To accomplish that goal, evaluators conduct inspections, evaluations, and performance reviews. Their job is to examine and assess systems, processes, and resources to ensure quality, compliance, and effectiveness.



MEET THE TEAM

Meghan Ragany, Assistant Chief of Inspections & Evaluations

- Joined OIG in 2016
- Certified Inspector General Evaluator, Certified Internal Auditor, Certified Fraud Examiner, Certified Compliance and Ethics Professional
- Bachelor's degree in Foreign Service and Juris Doctor
- Licensed Attorney

Adam Bradley, Inspector/Evaluator

- Joined OIG in 2025
- Bachelor's degrees in Biology and Spanish, Master of Public Health, Doctor of Public Health
- Certified Inspector General Evaluator

Damon Morris, Inspector/Evaluator

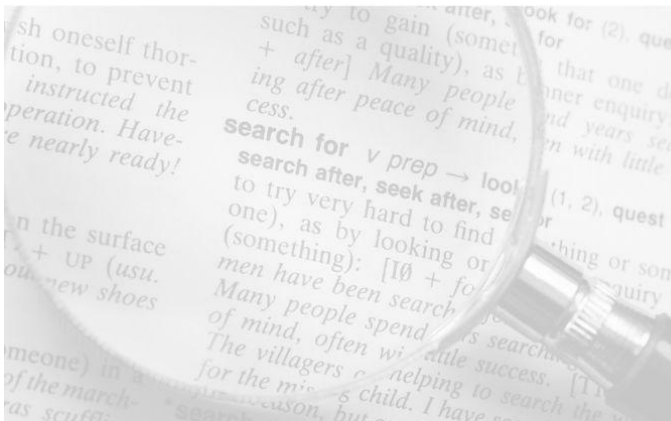
- Joined OIG in 2022
- Certified Inspector General Evaluator, Certified Compliance and Ethics Professional
- Bachelor's degree in Political Science and Master's in International Affairs, Doctor of Philosophy in Political Science, Fulbright Scholar

Heather Browning, Inspector/Evaluator

- Joined OIG in 2022
- Certified Inspector General Evaluator, Certified Fraud Examiner
- Bachelor's degrees in English and Psychology, Master of Business Administration

Sarah Lewis, Inspector/Evaluator

- Joined OIG in 2023
- Certified Inspector General Evaluator, Certified Fraud Examiner
- Bachelor's degrees in Political Science and Art History, Master's in Urban and Regional Planning, and Library and Information Science



INSPECTIONS & EVALUATIONS

PUBLIC LETTER: NOPD's LIBRS COMPLIANCE

RELEASED: FEBRUARY 2025

BACKGROUND: In 2016, the FBI announced a significant change in how it would document crime data. The New Orleans Police Department (NOPD), like all other law enforcement agencies in the state, was required to submit crime data in the new format to the Louisiana Commission on Law Enforcement (LCLE) through the Louisiana Incident-Based Crime Reporting System (LIBRS) since 2021. Under Louisiana law, failure to become certified through LIBRS resulted in ineligibility to receive certain federal grant money. In May 2019, the NOPD received a \$358,120 federal NCS-X grant to help the department transition to LIBRS standards. The NOPD ultimately paid a contractor \$427,241 to upgrade its Records Management System (RMS), used to collect crime data.

FINDINGS: The NOPD's failure to report accurate crime statistics in accordance with state law **cost the City and its nonprofit partners at least \$1.1 million**, including grant money used to support crime victims. Due to the timing and frequency of crime-statistic reporting, the NOPD's failure to comply with reporting requirements will continue to affect the amount of federal grant funding available to local organizations until at least the year 2031.

Despite these expenditures and an extended deadline, the NOPD never achieved LIBRS certification. In fact, the NOPD did not submit any 2021 crime data to the State until March 2024. As a result, the NOPD was required to **repay almost \$200,000** it had received through the NCS-X grant **and forfeit the remainder of the \$358,120 award.**

IMPACT: The NOPD's failure to report crime data also impacted the amount of funding available to organizations that serve crime victims in Orleans Parish. The LCLE allocates a significant portion of federal grant money based on a formula that relies heavily on crime statistics for each district of the state. This formula is recalculated every 10 years. However, when the State recalculated the formula in 2023, the NOPD had not yet reported crime data for 2021. Therefore, the formula was calculated as though New Orleans had no crime at all in 2021, and the portion of funding allocated to Orleans Parish fell from 15.89% to 10.63%.

Therefore, the formula was calculated as though New Orleans had **no crime at all** in 2021, and the portion of funding allocated to Orleans fell from **15.89% to 10.63%**.

Figure 1: Percentage of Statewide Formula Grant Funding

District	Previous Formula	Existing Formula	OIG Recalculation ²⁸
Northwest	11.07%	12.20%	11.57%
North Delta	10.77%	10.09%	9.49%
Red River	9.74%	9.59%	9.07%
Evangeline	10.66%	10.28%	9.80%
Capital	15.95%	19.31%	18.28%
Southwest	10.44%	10.11%	9.51%
Metropolitan	15.48%	17.79%	16.96%
Orleans	15.89%	10.63%	15.33%

RECOMMENDATIONS:

- The City should ensure NOPD staff are trained to document incidents in ways that meet LIBRS reporting standards before the new RMS is launched.
- The City should ensure adequate staff resources are dedicated to verifying the quality of data submitted by field officers.
- Per LCLE guidance, the NOPD should commit to submitting full months of LIBRS data to the State immediately after launching the new RMS, even if initial data contain errors.

INSPECTIONS & EVALUATIONS

Public Letter: City of New Orleans Emergency Procurement Policies and Procedures

RELEASED: JUNE 2025

BACKGROUND: The OIG reviewed City procurement processes used for undeclared emergencies during the 2024 calendar year.

FINDINGS: The City's policies and procedures for procurement during undeclared emergencies were vague and inconsistent, leaving the process open to potential fraud, waste, and abuse. The overall lack of clarity and consistency allowed City departments to selectively choose which policies to follow, including in instances where purchases forbidden by some City procurement policies were not explicitly forbidden by other policies.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

- Purchasing should work with the Chief Administrative Officer to reconcile all current and proposed procurement policies to ensure clarity and consistency. The new manual should clearly outline the process departments should use when soliciting and approving emergency procurements. Purchasing should also review best practices utilized by other jurisdictions for emergency contracting.
- Purchasing should formally adopt policies and procedures for After-The-Fact (ATF) purchases to ensure they are compliant with City, state, and federal law. These policies should outline when it is appropriate for departments to use an ATF procurement method.
- Purchasing should work with administrators of the City's procurement system to develop mechanisms to easily filter, sort, and extract procurement data, which may provide greater oversight and the ability to monitor trends, increase efficiency, and prevent fraud, waste, and abuse.

Public Letter: NORD Commission and NORD Foundation Annual Audit Requirements

RELEASED: JULY 2025

BACKGROUND: The City Charter requires the New Orleans Recreation Department Commission (NORDC) to annually obtain and submit to the City Council, Mayor, and Office of Inspector General an independent professional audit within 120 days of the end of NORDC's fiscal year. The NORD Foundation, a nonprofit created to support NORD, is also required to obtain annual independent audits or sworn financial statements.

FINDINGS: NORDC and the NORD Foundation failed to conduct annual audits and obtain sworn financial statements as required by law.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

- NORDC and the NORD Foundation should immediately begin taking the steps necessary to become compliant with all legal obligations for financial reporting by the end of 2026. These efforts should include obtaining independent audits or sworn financial statements each year as necessary.
- To promote transparency, the OIG also recommends that NORDC and the NORD Foundation submit their annual financial statements to City and State authorities.

INVESTIGATIONS

Preliminary Investigations into Fraud, Waste, and Abuse

The Investigations Division conducts criminal and administrative investigations involving City employees, contractors, and vendors that receive City funds. Investigators also work with local, state, and federal partners to conduct joint investigations.



MEET THE TEAM

Kenneth Petro, Investigator

- Joined OIG in 2022
- More than 33 years of experience in federal law enforcement (FBI) and military service
- Bachelor's degree in History
- Certificate in Business Administration/Leadership

Lawrence Robinson, Investigator

- Joined OIG in 2025
- More than 25 years of experience in federal law enforcement, specializing in financial and white collar crimes, computer intrusions and computer forensic investigations; more than five years of experience in administrative investigations
- Bachelor's degree in Accounting

Peter Brito, Investigator

- Joined OIG in 2025
- More than 23 years of experience in law enforcement, specializing in operations, personnel, and administrative investigations.
- Bachelor's degree in Accounting, Master's in Management.
- Certified Fraud Examiner

Jeffery Babineaux, Intelligence Analyst

- Joined OIG in 2024
- More than 10 years of experience in data management and analysis, strategic analysis and planning, and process improvement
- Bachelor's degree in Psychology, Masters in Healthcare Administration
- Certificate in Foundations of Intelligence Analysis (FIAT), Certified Open-Source Intelligence (OSINT) Analyst, Certified Cyber Crime Intelligence Analyst (3CIA), Certified Fraud Examiner (CFE)

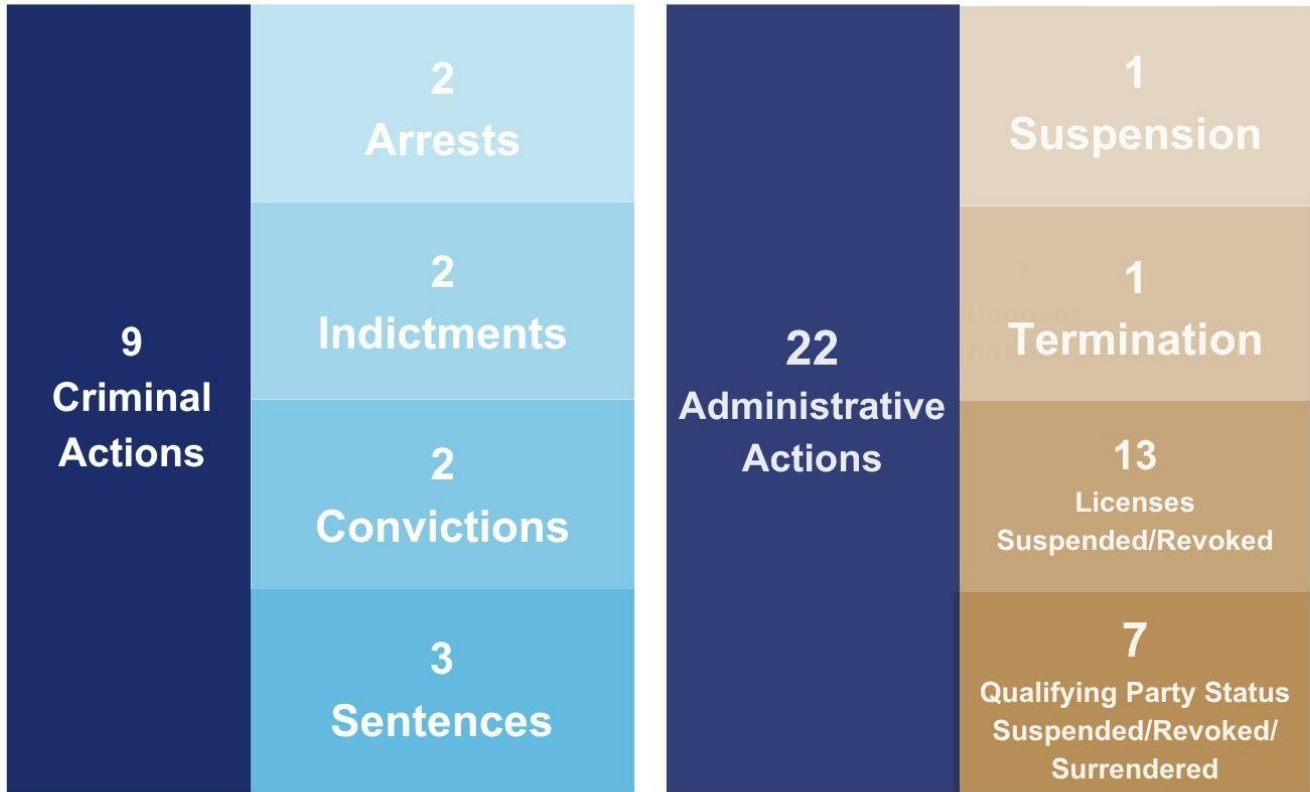
An **Intelligence Analyst** collects, evaluates, and interprets data from various sources to identify threats, trends, and patterns, which provide critical insights to support decision-making. Their work involves analyzing reports, monitoring intelligence sources, and creating assessments to anticipate risks and enhance strategic planning.

INVESTIGATIONS

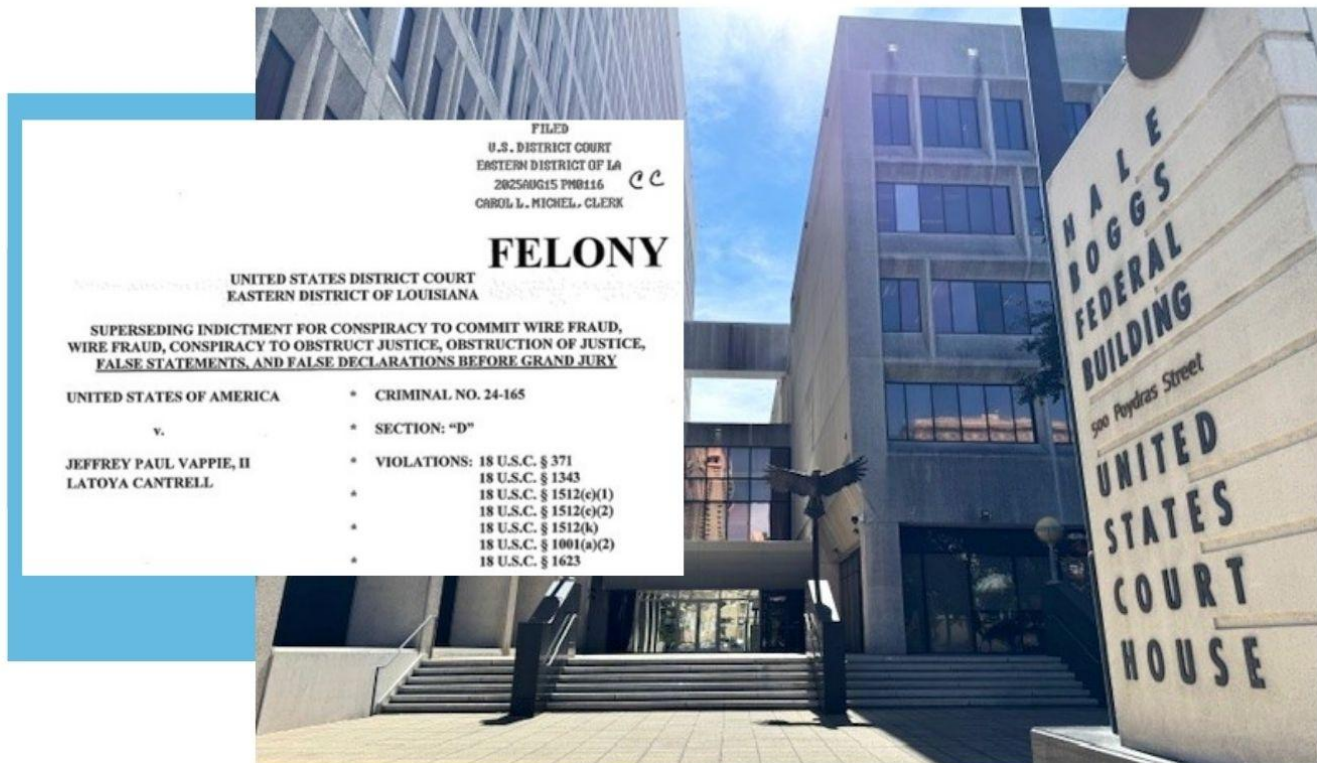
The OIG Investigation Division continues to help hold City officials and employees accountable for misusing City resources. In 2025 alone, OIG investigations led to two arrests, two indictments, and two convictions, and three sentencing of former City employees and/or contractors. Those indicted include the former Mayor and her bodyguard, former law enforcement officers, former SWBNO employees, and contractors tasked with inspecting businesses and homes. Our investigative work also led to administrative actions, such as terminations and the revocation of professional licenses, which help protect the public from hazards posed by fraudulent workers/professional contractors.

2025 INVESTIGATIONS BY THE NUMBERS

151 Complaints Received/Vetted
14 Investigations Opened
72 Record Requests Submitted
7 Search Warrants Executed



INVESTIGATIONS



FORMER MAYOR AND MEMBER OF HER EXECUTIVE PROTECTION UNIT CHARGED IN 18-COUNT FEDERAL INDICTMENT

On Aug. 15, 2025, the U.S. Attorney's Office, Eastern District of Louisiana, announced an 18-count 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 then-New Orleans Mayor LaToya Cantrell and her former bodyguard, Jeffrey Vappie. Cantrell faces 11 felony counts in the indictment, which alleges she 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 accuses Cantrell and Vappie of employing various tactics, including deleting evidence and making false statements to federal agents and/or a grand jury, to continue and conceal their scheme. Vappie, a former NOPD officer, was initially indicted in July 2024 on federal charges of wire fraud. He now faces additional counts of wire fraud as well as charges of conspiracy.

The indictment is 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. The U.S. Attorney's Office recognized the contributions of the OIG in a press release and press conference announcing the superseding indictment.

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

INVESTIGATIONS

Former Sewerage & Water Board Special Agent Sentenced for Multiple Fraud Schemes

Monday, December 22, 2025

Show >

For Immediate Release

U.S. Attorney's Office, Eastern District of Louisiana
brittany.l.reed@usdoj.gov

NEW ORLEANS, LOUISIANA – Acting United States Attorney Michael M. Simpson announced that **LEESSA AUGUSTINE** ("AUGUSTINE"), age 47, a resident of New Orleans, was sentenced on December 18, 2025, to four charges related to her involvement in multiple fraud schemes while employed as a Sewerage & Water Board of New Orleans ("SWBNO") Senior Special Agent. A joint press release with investigating the alleged involvement of other Sewerage & Water Board employees.

United States District Judge Greg Garcia (Judge) sentenced **AUGUSTINE** to 6 months' home detention to be followed by five years' supervised release and \$94,972 in restitution.

AUGUSTINE sentence was imposed on her guilty pleas to three counts of Wire Fraud and one count of making False Stat for lying to investigators. In one scheme, **AUGUSTINE**, who was also a New Orleans Police Department reserve officer, police detail customer for hours she actually worked. During some of the times **AUGUSTINE** was supposed to be working a police detail for the Downtown Development District, she used her SWBNO-issued computer to conduct a second fraud scheme that involved obtaining a mortgage loan and federally funded assistance for low-income homebuyers. In that home-purchase scheme, **AUGUSTINE** created fake documents, including a fake W-2 form, fake pay stubs, and fake bank statements. In a third scheme, **AUGUSTINE** obtained federally funded unemployment benefits by concealing her Senior Special Agent income. In a fourth scheme, **AUGUSTINE** obtained federally funded emergency rental assistance from the City of New Orleans by submitting a fake lease and a termination letter from a fictitious employer. At various times during the schemes, **AUGUSTINE** provided her SWBNO-issued telephone number as a contact number for persons she impersonated.

Acting U.S. Attorney Simpson thanked the New Orleans Office of Inspector General and the New Orleans Police Department for their valuable assistance in this case.

This case was investigated by the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the Office of Inspector General, U.S. Department of Justice and Urban Development, the Office of Inspector General, U.S. Department of Labor, and the Office of Inspector General, Department of Homeland Security. It was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Chandra Meron of the Public Integrity Unit.

Leessa Augustine, Former Sewerage & Water Board Special Agent and New Orleans Police Officer, Indicted for Multiple Fraud Schemes

Monday, September 29, 2024

Show >

For Immediate Release

U.S. Attorney's Office, Eastern District of Louisiana
shane.konopka@usdoj.gov

NEW ORLEANS – United States Attorney Duane A. Evans announced that **LEESSA AUGUSTINE** ("AUGUSTINE"), age 45, was indicted on September 20, 2024, for her involvement in multiple fraud schemes while employed as a Sewerage & Water Board of New Orleans ("SWBNO") Senior Special Agent, a position related with investigating the alleged involvement of other Sewerage & Water Board employees.

In one alleged scheme, **AUGUSTINE**, who was also a New Orleans Police Department reserve officer, billed a police detail customer for hours not actually worked. It is alleged that during some of the times **AUGUSTINE** was supposed to be working the police detail for the Downtown Development District, she used her SWBNO-issued computer to conduct a second fraud scheme that involved obtaining a mortgage loan and federally funded assistance for low-income homebuyers. In that home-purchase scheme, **AUGUSTINE** allegedly created fake documents, including a fake W-2 form, fake pay stubs, and fake bank statements. In a third alleged scheme, **AUGUSTINE** obtained federally funded unemployment benefits by concealing her Senior Special Agent income. Finally, in a fourth alleged scheme, **AUGUSTINE** obtained federally funded emergency rental assistance from the City of New Orleans by submitting a fake lease and a termination letter from a fictitious employer. At various times during the schemes, **AUGUSTINE** allegedly provided her SWBNO-issued telephone number as a contact number for three different persons she impersonated.

AUGUSTINE is charged with four counts of Wire Fraud (one count per each fraud scheme). **AUGUSTINE** is also charged with two counts of Aggravated Identity Theft for allegedly assuming two persons' identities. Finally, **AUGUSTINE** is charged with making False Statements for allegedly lying to investigators.

The wire fraud charge related to the police detail is punishable by up to 20 years' imprisonment. The other three wire fraud charges are each punishable by up to 20 years' imprisonment due to enhanced penalties for fraud related to emergency benefits and fraud affecting a Federal institution. Each aggravated identity theft charge is punishable by two years' imprisonment. The false statement charge is punishable by up to five years' imprisonment. Each count may include a fine up to \$250,000, a term of supervised release following imprisonment, and the payment of a mandatory \$500 special assessment fee.

U.S. Attorney Evans revealed that the indictment is merely a charge and that the defendant's guilt must be proven beyond a reasonable doubt.

U.S. Attorney Evans thanked the New Orleans Office of Inspector General and the New Orleans Police Department for their valuable assistance in this case.

Former NOPD Sergeant Sentenced to 5 Years Probation After Pleading Guilty to Six Counts of Wire Fraud for Double Billing and Billing for Time Not Worked

Tuesday, February 25, 2025

Show >

For Immediate Release

U.S. Attorney's Office, Eastern District of Louisiana
shane.konopka@usdoj.gov

NEW ORLEANS – Acting U.S. Attorney Michael M. Simpson announced today that United States District Judge Jay C. Zamey sentenced former New Orleans Police Department Sergeant **TODD F. MORRELL**, age 57, a resident of New Orleans, to 5 years of probation, 8 months of home confinement, 150 hours of community service, a \$5,000 fine, and payment of a mandatory \$600 special assessment fee after he previously pleaded guilty to six counts of wire fraud, in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 1343, for perpetrating a multi-year scheme to defraud NOPD and the New Orleans Fair Grounds, an entity that paid him to provide off-duty police details. A restitution hearing is set for April 29, 2025.

According to court documents, **MORRELL** was a NOPD Sergeant with NOPD's Special Operations Division, serving both on a Tactical Platoon and the Bomb Disposal Unit. He supplemented his NOPD income with security-oriented secondary employment (i.e., "police details") while off-duty, including a detail with the New Orleans Fair Grounds Neighborhood Patrol ("Fair Grounds Patrol"). The Fair Grounds Patrol consisted of two patrol cars operating 24 hours per day, 7 days a week, with one off-duty NOPD officer per car. **MORRELL** signed annual certifications attesting to his understanding of NOPD policies, including the secondary employment policy, and acknowledging that he would "actively monitor my hours" and would "not engage in activities or personal business which would cause them to neglect or be inattentive to duty."

FORMER SWBNO SPECIAL AGENT, RESERVE POLICE OFFICER CONVICTED AND SENTENCED FOR MULTIPLE FRAUD SCHEMES

A former New Orleans SWBNO Senior Special Agent and reserve NOPD Officer was sentenced Dec. 16, 2025, to six months of home detention to be followed by five years' supervised release and \$94,972 in restitution in connection with multiple fraud schemes. She was convicted June 11, 2025, of four counts of wire fraud, two counts of aggravated identity theft, and one count of making false statements to investigators. In one scheme, she billed a police detail customer for hours she had not actually worked. During times she was supposed to be working a police detail for the Downtown Development District, she used her SWBNO-issued computer to conduct a second fraud scheme that involved obtaining mortgage loans and federal assistance for low-income homebuyers. In this home-purchase scheme, she created fake documents, including a fake W-2 form, fake pay stubs, and fake bank statements. In a third scheme, she obtained federally funded unemployment benefits by concealing her Senior Special Agent income. In a fourth scheme, she obtained federal emergency rental assistance from the City of New Orleans by submitting a fake lease and a termination letter from a fictitious employer. The New Orleans OIG worked with the U.S. Attorney's Office to secure this conviction.

Acting U.S. Attorney Simpson thanked the New Orleans Office of Inspector General and the New Orleans Police Department for their valuable assistance in this case.

FORMER NOPD SERGEANT CONVICTED AND SENTENCED FOR FRAUD IN DOUBLE BILLING SCHEME

A former NOPD sergeant was sentenced on Feb. 25, 2025, following his convictions on six counts of wire fraud for a multi-year scheme to defraud the NOPD and New Orleans Fair Grounds through double billing and billing for time not worked. The charges alleged he was sometimes racing cars on the West Bank when clocked in for work. He was sentenced to five years of probation, eight months of home confinement, 150 hours of community service, a \$5,000 fine, and a mandatory \$600 special assessment fee. He must also pay restitution. This conviction was the result of collaboration between the New Orleans OIG and FBI, led by the U.S. Attorney's Office.

Acting U.S. Attorney Simpson praised the work of the Federal Bureau of Investigation in investigating this matter and expressed appreciation for the support provided by the City of New Orleans Office of Inspector General and the New Orleans Public Integrity Bureau. Assistant United States Attorneys Jordan Ginsberg, Chief of the Public Integrity Unit, and Brittany L. Reed also of the Public Integrity Unit, are in charge of the prosecution.

INVESTIGATIONS

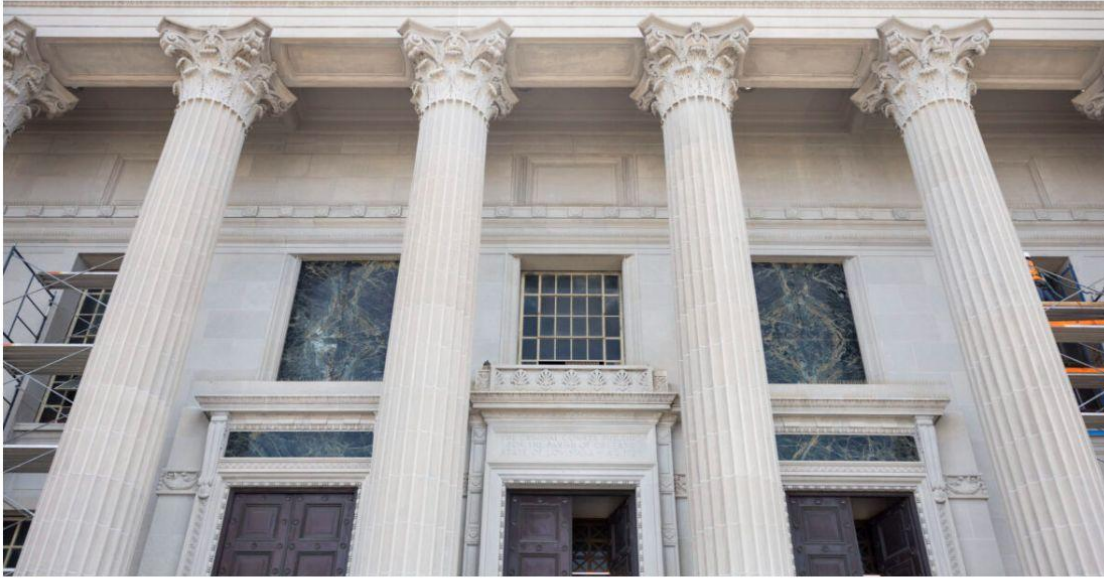


Photo: Christiana Botic/Verite News and CatchLight Local/Report for America

FORMER OPCD DIRECTOR CONVICTED AND SENTENCED FOR FRAUD, MALFEASANCE IN OFFICE

A former Orleans Parish Communication District Executive Director was sentenced on Oct. 1, 2025, to 10 years in prison, with nine suspended, following his Sept. 26, 2025, convictions of insurance fraud, malfeasance in office, impersonation of a police officer, and second-degree injuring of public records. Our investigative work showed that in 2023, he used a City-owned vehicle to impersonate a police officer and failed to follow standard procedures of submitting to a drug and alcohol test following the crash. He then tried to cover up the crash. The OIG provided investigative results to the Orleans Parish District Attorney's Office and continued to provide information to prosecutors throughout the conviction and sentencing processes.

FORMER SWBNO EMPLOYEE CONTINUES COURT PROCESS AFTER ARREST IN BRASS AND COPPER THEFTS

A former SWBNO employee continued through the court process in 2025 after he was arrested by Louisiana State Police's Troop NOLA on Dec. 27, 2024, amid an OIG investigation into brass and copper thefts impacting the agency. The SWBNO Security Department has been conducting an internal audit to determine the extent of the problem and whether this indicates a larger issue. OIG investigators continue to collaborate with the Louisiana State Police's Troop NOLA and SWBNO Security Department to investigate brass and copper thefts.

CITY TOW TRUCK DRIVER ARRESTED AND INDICTED

A City tow truck driver was arrested in July 2025 on multiple 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. He was arrested again on Sept. 26, 2025, on the same charges, after the investigation revealed that he had again bypassed the official tow process by accepting cash payments in exchange for not towing vehicles. OIG investigators continue to collaborate with the Louisiana State Police's Troop NOLA on this case.

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

INVESTIGATIONS

State revokes license of contractor tied to costly water main breaks, boil advisories



WWLTV

February 25 at 10:31PM

Jon Andersen's state license was revoked last year; now he's accused of forging insurance documents and using revoked state license to apply for parish credentials.

CONTRACTORS, BUSINESSES LOSE PROFESSIONAL LICENSURE FOLLOWING OIG JOINT INVESTIGATIONS

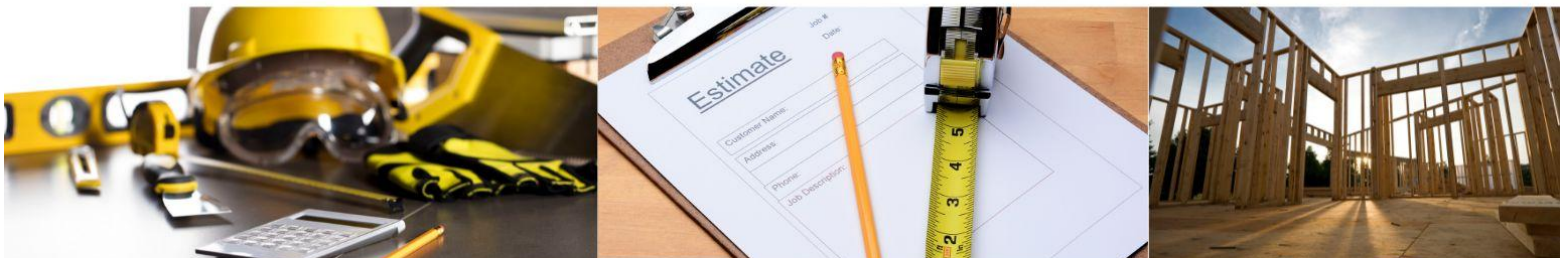
The OIG continued to work with partnering agencies to hold local contractors accountable for fraud.

The Investigation Division continued to assist federal prosecutors in the case against one of those individuals, a prominent former third-party inspector facing 25 federal counts of conspiracy and fraud. In 2025, this individual was permanently stripped of his professional license and Qualifying Party Status as part of a plea agreement with the Louisiana State Licensing Board for Contractors (LSLBC) in relation to charges in Jefferson Parish.

During 2025, the LSLBC also suspended and/or revoked licenses for five other contractors, as well as two of their associated businesses. The agency also suspended or revoked the Qualifying Party Status of two of those contractors for alleged fraudulent activity and/or violations of contracting laws.

In addition, Louisiana's Fourth Circuit Court of Appeals ruled in July 2025 to uphold the City's termination of a former S&P inspector who was fired following an OIG investigation into improper permitting procedures.

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



INVESTIGATIONS

NOPD CAPTAINS AND MAJORS

The OIG conducted an investigation into the NOPD's 2024 promotional exams for Captains and Majors, finding no evidence of cheating or bias.

The two-part promotional exams were conducted in July and September 2024, resulting in a final list of 33 candidates. Upon receiving the promotional list, Mayor LaToya Cantrell informed NOPD Superintendent Anne Kirkpatrick that she had received oral complaints of cheating and bias on the exams. In the following weeks, several anonymous allegations of cheating and bias were received by the Independent Police Monitor and NOPD.

All anonymous complaints appeared only after the final promotional rankings were distributed. In November 2024, Kirkpatrick suspended the promotional process and requested the OIG conduct a Formal Disciplinary Investigation into the complaints. The ensuing investigation included interviews with all 14 NOPD members accused of cheating or bias, 19 other exam participants, and all personnel who received or processed the anonymous complaints.

Superintendent Kirkpatrick issued an email inviting any complainant to contact the OIG confidentially to assist with validating the allegations; however, no one came forward in an effort to assist the OIG in confirming the veracity of the allegations. Mayor Cantrell was also asked to assist, but declined to be interviewed by the OIG in connection with this investigation. The timing of the complaints, lack of factual support, and refusal of complainants to come forward under anonymity raised concerns about the legitimacy of the allegations.

FINDINGS:

The OIG's investigation concluded that NOPD's 2024 promotional exams for Captain and Major positions were conducted fairly, without evidence of cheating or preferential treatment. The OIG found the anonymous allegations lacked credibility and appeared to have been made only after results were known, likely to influence or obstruct the promotion process. The results of the investigation were provided to the NOPD Chief in February 2025, to allow the promotional process to go forward, and a public letter including recommendations for reform was released in December 2025.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

- **Anonymous Complaint Reform:** NOPD should establish a protocol that allows anonymous complaints to be received and investigated without halting the promotional process, unless credible evidence of misconduct is found.
- **Accountability for Abuse of the Complaint Process:** NOPD should develop measures to identify and discipline individuals who misuse the complaint system for personal or competitive advantage.
- **Periodic Complaint Process Review:** NOPD, in coordination with the OIG, should explore ways to mitigate the risk of misuse of the complaint process without impacting valid complainants.



REVIEW

DEPARTMENT OF SAFETY AND PERMITS REVIEW

The OIG in September 2024 announced a new initiative to ensure effective operations of S&P. The OIG initiative aimed to foster effective S&P practices and develop methods to improve efficiency, boost accountability, and lessen the potential for corruption at this essential City agency.

This initiative involved assigning OIG personnel to S&P offices to review the agency's policies, procedures, and internal controls with a focus on identifying and mitigating gaps and weaknesses.

The OIG conducted this review in response to numerous cases of fraud, waste, and abuse within DSP. Since 2013, the OIG has conducted multiple investigations at S&P that led to significant actions taken against City employees and third-party inspectors.

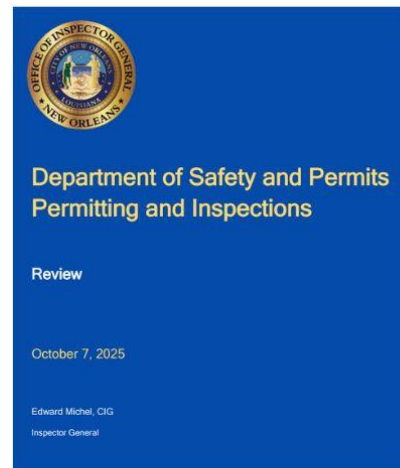
The results of these investigations led to at least 15 City employees, including 13 with S&P, being fired or resigning under investigation, and at least 17 contractors losing their operating licenses and/or being completely or partially banned from doing business in the City of New Orleans. Seven former City employees and contractors were indicted following OIG investigations into S&P. These repeated instances pointed to systemic inefficiencies in the system as a whole.

OIG staff made numerous observations regarding S&P over the course of the review, including two overarching observations:

- Several previous assessments of S&P had already identified similar inefficiencies, but few recommendations for reform had been implemented by City officials.
- Most of these inefficiencies related to an inadequate internal controls system, or systems of oversight and accountability. Specifically, OIG staff observed the following:
 - S&P did not have an effective internal controls system, including a coherent set of operational policies and procedures, and oversight and accountability mechanisms.
 - S&P's permitting and inspections divisions failed to create and implement a formal training policy and procedure.
 - S&P's permitting and inspection divisions operated without a clear and consistent workflow structure.
 - S&P lacked robust internal review mechanisms for approved permits and inspections.
 - S&P did not consistently enforce permitting and inspection requirements and fees for inappropriate or inadequate permit applications and inspections.

The OIG issued 12 recommendations for reform, beginning with two overarching recommendations:

- The City and S&P leadership should prioritize addressing the issues that have been consistently pointed out since 2021 by several independent assessments.
- The starting point for any reform effort must be the development and implementation of a clearer, more vigorous, and more transparent system of internal management. S&P should establish a coherent set of operational policies and procedures documented in a single unified policies and procedures manual. This S&P manual should establish a clear system of internal mechanisms for oversight and accountability.



ADMINISTRATION

Office Management, Human Resources, Procurement

The Office Management team consists of an Office and HR Manager and a Procurement Specialist. The Office Management team is responsible for Human Resources, Finance and Bookkeeping, Procurement Process/Credit Card Expenditures, and operations. The OIG's Office and HR Manager is Mira Roberts. The OIG's **Procurement Specialist, Charlotte Horne**, began working for the OIG in 2024. She has a Bachelor's degree in Mathematics and **more than 10 years** of civil service experience.

Mira Roberts
Office/HR Manager

Charlotte Horne
Procurement Specialist

Intern I - Birney Sherard

OIG Internship Program

The OIG Internship Program offers college students in various programs of study the opportunity to play a part in our mission to identify and mitigate fraud, waste, and abuse. Through our paid internships, interested students gain professional analytical, technical, and administrative knowledge in one or more areas of municipal government administration and related work. The OIG's **intelligence analyst intern, Birney Sherard**, is studying Psychology, Homeland Security, and Spanish at Tulane University, and will graduate with a Bachelor's degree in Psychology in May 2026. 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.



INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

Security, Equipment, Digital Forensics, Communications

The OIG continues to incorporate new technology, intelligence, and bulk data analysis into our projects and initiatives, using these tools to produce impactful work for the public. Our state-of-the-art infrastructure greatly enhances our ability to fulfill our mission efficiently and effectively. As the digital environment evolves and new threats emerge, the OIG Information Technology Team continually works to improve our digital infrastructure to protect the OIG's data, storage, and transmission capacity. Our team also manages digital branding through our website, social media, and marketing materials, as well as digital Forensic Acquisitions, especially the recovery of digital materials to assist the Investigations Division.

Rodney Black, I.T. Security Technician

- Joined the OIG in 2022
- Program Certificate for Cybersecurity, Certified Cyber Crime Examiner
- Bachelor of Science in Computer Information System

Laura McKnight, Public Information Officer

- Joined the OIG in 2024
- Bachelor's in Mass Communication and Master of Fine Arts in Creative Writing

Bobbie Jones
I.T. Security Manager

Rodney Black
I.T. Security Technician

Laura McKnight
Social Media - PIO

OIG IN THE NEWS

2025 in Media Hits

In 2025, the OIG continued to work with local media outlets to raise public awareness of our mission and the impact of our work. During the year, the OIG was featured in all of New Orleans' major media outlets, gaining more than 170 mentions in broadcast and print news pieces and talk shows.

Hot Topics:

Every OIG report and public letter drew media attention, with some releases receiving numerous mentions in local news outlets. The projects capturing the most media hits and driving public interest include the S&P Permitting and Inspections Review, the S&P Third Party Inspections Audit, and the Formal Disciplinary Investigation into Allegations of Cheating in NOPD Promotional Exams. As the year drew to a close, the OIG continued to appear in the news cycle as our office completed a review of the NOPD's policies, procedures, and practices for overtime use, leading to a public letter released in early 2026.



TUNE IN!

Catch **Inspector General Ed Michel** live on WVL Radio to discuss the OIG's new report on Safety & Permits.

9:40 a.m. Monday, May 5
WVL First News with



New Orleans Inspector General finds millions in unchecked NOPD overtime

For OIG officers, overnight mechanisms relied on real-time observation by supervisors who worked alongside their subordinates and personally witnessed their work. Under the OIG effective use of overtime was often gauged by the productivity of each officer. In this regard, there were numerous work practices, such as longer Overtime Request Forms, which departmental detectives' work at every stage of an investigation. There were also warrants issued, arrest reports, and other official work products produced by officers' work during extended hours.

In the OIG's previous supervision audit using mechanisms to verify whether officers reported to their overtime shifts. Some officers checked in and out of overtime shifts, other manually or using a electronic clock located on-site. Officers also reported for shifts, yet in this regard for a regular shift, but they did not always happen for overtime shifts. In most instances, the supervising officers related to shifts, which documented an officer's activity during the overtime shift, and used these practices from one shift.

Further, district supervisors in the OIG and security districts had access to GPS location data, body camera data, radio and dispatch information, and other facility cameras, all of which they could use to monitor officers' work or activity during the overtime hours they claimed. It was unclear how often supervising officers used these tools and other available information to confirm officers' presence while on duty. An hour and a half supervisor reported that they did not actually receive body camera footage of officers who were on overtime. Finally, labor district supervisors also reported that when overtime was requested the payroll system based on the shift, the supervisor who checked overtime work or who entered time into the payroll system might be an officer's direct supervisor, or even the same supervisor who was on duty at the time an officer was working overtime.

This lack of internal controls and consistent oversight mechanisms to verify whether officers actually worked overtime hours claimed increased the risk of payroll fraud.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

The OIG's findings should result in improvements to its overtime management after the report issued for this document. In September 2025, NOPD should update existing and Code 20 mechanisms. More notably, NOPD should limit a total of 200 hours (20 hours per week for each of the eight districts) 180 hours for the Special Operations Division, 200 hours per week for Support (One Allocated Investigative Team (OIGIT), 60 hours per week for the Gang Reduction and Intervention Partnership (GARIP) and 60 hours per week for Education and Training (Education).

The special security district, required officers to wear bodycams, which will provide oversight, when overtime. The Special Security Task Force and the OIG should verify that all overtime requests are made on-duty, which could be tracked consistently.

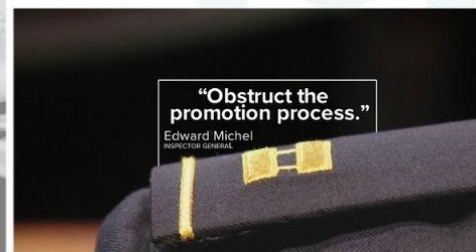
5:02 52° FOX 8 LOCAL FIRST

OIG report: No evidence of cheating, bias in NOPD promotions



NOPD promotional exams cleared of cheating, bias; OIG calls for reform

The OIG's investigation was prompted by "baseless" allegations of cheating and bias.



OIG IN THE NEWS

Our office continues to be a trusted resource for journalists, with media coverage of the OIG extending well beyond the release of our most recent reports and public letters. News coverage frequently references our work in stories concerning the most pressing and widely discussed issues of the day, including our role in helping to mitigate the City's budget crisis, continuing to provide oversight of the NOPD following the end of the Department's federal consent decree, and, in the wake of the Orleans Parish jailbreak, continuing to urge the Orleans Parish Sheriff's Office to use the City's procurement system for enhanced transparency and accountability. These consistent mentions demonstrate that our analyses and expertise remain highly relevant to those we serve. The past year's news coverage reflects our office's ongoing impact, credibility, and value to New Orleans citizens and businesses.



NOPD launches stronger internal controls as it enters new era of self-oversight

New Orleans City Council and sheriff continue discussion on adding OPSO to BRASS



THAT WAS A MAJOR PART OF THE CITY'S \$160 MILLION FINANCIAL DEFICIT



The superintendent has also requested a department-wide audit from the Office of Inspector General,



The understaffed New Orleans Police Department's spending came under fresh scrutiny after Louisiana Legislative Auditor Mike Waguespack reported that no one had budgeted for police overtime in the city's 2025 budget, which faces a deficit of \$160 million.

But Waguespack has begun digging deeper into the issue in recent weeks at the City Council's request. The Office of the Inspector General separately confirmed to WVIIF television that it was investigating the matter back in July



New Orleans does need to do a better job of keeping track of its finances. To that end, the council also asked Legislative Auditor Mike Waguespack and the city's inspector general to probe spending during Cantrell's second term.

of this. Office of Inspector General, City of New Orleans,

Kaare Johnson

OIG CITIZENS ACADEMY

The **OIG Citizens Academy** is an engaging three-week program that gives City employees and business, religious, and civic leaders an inside look at the OIG. The purpose of the OIG Citizens Academy is to foster a greater understanding of the role and mission of the OIG in the community through discussion and education. Our Citizens Academy also helps build rapport and ensure healthy and productive interactions with City employees. Candidates can request an invitation by visiting nola.oig.gov.



“This should be a required training for all city leadership. I have gained a wealth of knowledge...”
Dichelle L. Williams, Juvenile Justice Intervention Center

OUTREACH & EDUCATION

Along with hosting the Citizens Academy, the OIG regularly gives presentations to City employees, civic and community groups, and other interested citizens. During 2025, Inspector General Michel and staff have provided presentations and briefings on the OIG's mission, role, and initiatives to new and veteran City employees as well as local, state, and national civic, professional, and governmental groups. To request remarks from the OIG at your event, visit our website's [Speaker Request page](#).



Number of presentations given in 2025:

35

Presentations were given to various audiences, including:

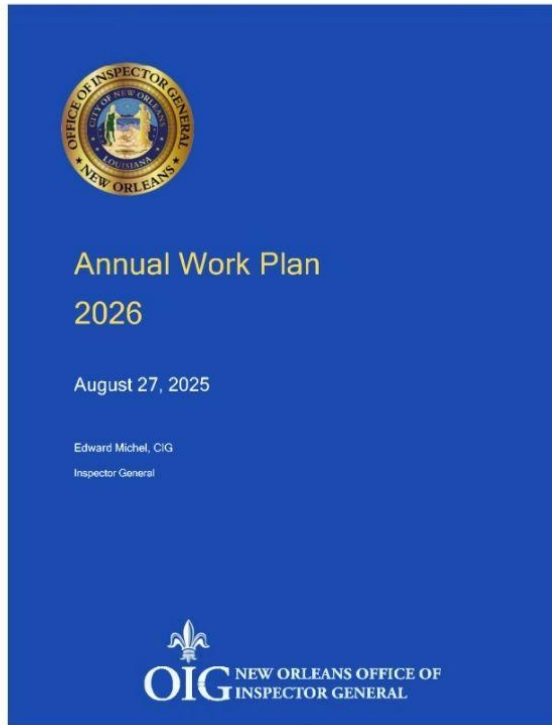
- Department of Sanitation
- City's new employee training
- NOPD Training Academy
- Department of Public Works barbecue
- Rotary Club
- Mortgage Lenders Association
- U.S. State Department's IVLP
- Tulane University students
- Princeton students
- AIG conference
- Metropolitan Crime Commission
- New Orleans EMS
- New Orleans Recreation Development Commission

INTERNATIONAL VISITORS

In 2025, the OIG had the honor of hosting two cohorts of the International Visitor Leadership Program (IVLP), the U.S. Department of State's premier professional exchange program, for briefings related to government accountability. The IVLP connects current and emerging leaders from around the world with their American counterparts, strengthening diplomatic ties and fostering long-term relationships. The delegations included public officials, attorneys, policy researchers, and other professionals working to promote transparency and accountability in Francophone Africa and Haiti, as well as in Central and South America. OIG staff presented on the OIG's mission and methods for fostering accountability in City government.



ANNUAL WORK PLAN 2026



The Annual Work Plan is a rolling audit and evaluation plan used to communicate the OIG's priorities and objectives to the public, the Mayor, the City Council, the Ethics Review Board (ERB), and other interested parties.

Each year, pursuant to the City Charter, the enabling Ordinance, and applicable professional standards, the OIG conducts a planning process that identifies goals, priorities, and strategies that align with our mission and vision while effectively using available resources. The 2026 plan covers the period from Sept. 1, 2025, through Aug. 31, 2026.

The OIG uses a cyclical City-wide Risk Assessment to allocate the OIG's resources efficiently and effectively, identify potential projects, and create a framework to determine the OIG's audit and evaluation priorities.

Due to limited resources, the Work Plan does not, nor does it intend to, provide coverage for all City-wide departments or component entities. The plan is designed to communicate the OIG's priorities and proposed work while allowing flexibility and discretion in the timing and selection of projects.

Risk-Assessment Categories:

OPERATIONAL RISK

Risk that the entity has (1) ineffective and inadequate processes; (2) improper or insufficient management and oversight; (3) outdated, poorly-documented policies and procedures; (4) inadequate staffing and/or skills needed to perform or achieve the entity's objectives; and (5) technological failures.

REPUTATIONAL RISK

Risk that the political climate and/or legislative changes could adversely affect the entity.

COMPLIANCE RISK

Risk that the agency is not complying with local, state, or federal laws, regulations, contracts, grant requirements, or professional standards.

FINANCIAL RISK

Risk that the entity has (1) financial insolvency or instability involving financial transactions, procurements, and contracts, and reporting of the entity; (2) budgetary overages and/or shortfalls; (3) inadequate management, maintenance, or safeguards over physical assets; and (4) fraud, waste, abuse, theft, and/or corruption.



2025 City-wide Risk Assessment Results

The OIG's 2025 assessment determined the following City entities to be high-risk:

- Department of Code Enforcement
- Department of Finance
- Department of Sanitation
- Emergency Medical Services (EMS)
- Sewerage and Water Board of New Orleans
- Corruption in general

WORK PLAN ONGOING & PROPOSED PROJECTS

PROJECTS COMPLETED OR ONGOING IN 2026

New Orleans Police Department	Overtime Policies and Procedures
New Orleans CAO, NOPD, DPW	Traffic Camera Safety Program Follow-Up
New Orleans Aviation Board	Professional Service and Maintenance Contracts
Emergency Medical Services	Response Time
Equipment Maintenance Division	Fleet Management
New Orleans Recreation Department	Booster Clubs and Athletics Fees
New Orleans Recreation Department	Maintenance Audit
Orleans Parish Assessor's Office	Non-profit Property Tax Exemptions

PROJECTS PROPOSED TO BEGIN IN 2026

Department of Code Enforcement	Illegal Dumping
Department of Finance	Procurement Oversight
Department of Sanitation	Trash Contractor Performance
Downtown Development District	Contractor Compliance and Monitoring
New Orleans Building Corporation	Lease Agreements
New Orleans Tourism and Cultural Fund	Use of Funds
Department of Public Works	Work Order Management
Sewerage and Water Board of New Orleans	Catch Basin Maintenance, SWBNO Overtime Policies
General corruption	Conduct Fraud Awareness seminars for employees and contractors Conduct investigations and refer evidence to appropriate prosecutors



Image by WDSU 6



SOCIAL MEDIA

The OIG has continued to grow our social media activity in 2025, increasing our number of posts, engaging viewers with Instagram and Facebook Stories and Reels, expanding our presence on YouTube, and reviving our LinkedIn page. The OIG uses these tools to raise awareness of our mission and role, projects and initiatives, public outreach activities, and helpful information like fraud-awareness tips and hotline information. The OIG's goal is to, whenever possible, mitigate fraud through education and awareness.



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NEW ORLEANS OIG

FIGHTING FRAUD

TIP OF THE MONTH

Signs of change order abuse:

- Purchase orders or contracts extended by change order rather than re-bidding
- Pattern of change orders just below the limit for upper-level approval

Jeffrey Doussan, operating principal of Keller Williams Realty New Orleans, visited the OIG today for a briefing on OIG initiatives. If your organization would like to learn about the mission and work of the OIG, please see our website and request a visit! nola.ig.gov/community-even...

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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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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

Where the Money Goes: A Candid Update from New Orleans Inspector General Ed Michel

Inspector General Ed Michel visited Keller Williams Realty New Orleans this week to provide an update on the work of the OIG. For a summary of his remarks, click the link in our stories.

CONNECT WITH US

REPORT FRAUD, WASTE, AND ABUSE!

IF YOU HAVE WITNESSED CORRUPTION IN CITY GOVERNMENT OR AMONG CITY CONTRACTORS, CONTACT OUR TIP LINE:



(504) 681-3247

hotline@nolaoig.gov

nolaoig.gov/report

525 St Charles Ave, New Orleans, LA 70130



SCAN ME



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