

MONTHLY REPORT

MARCH 2026



OIG

**NEW ORLEANS
OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL**

**EDWARD MICHEL, CIG
INSPECTOR GENERAL**

ADMINISTRATION DIVISION



2,066

Number of registered X followers

ADMINISTRATION

The Office Manager is responsible for the following:

- Human Resources
- Finance
- Procurement Process
- Operations

INFORMATION SECURITY

The OIG Information Security Specialist is responsible for maintaining the OIG's information technology (IT) integrity through:

- Technical Support
- Hardware and Software Updates
- Communication and Coordination
- Consultation for IT Purchases

COMMUNICATIONS

The Public Information Officer is responsible for the following:

- Public and Media Relations
- Social Media
- Monthly and Annual Reports to the ERB
- Editing | Writing | Reviewing

AUDIT & REVIEW DIVISION

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



The Audit and Review Division has the following projects in process:

- NOAB Contract Audit
- EMS Response Time Public Letter
- EMS Response Time Audit Report
- New Orleans Recreation Department Maintenance Audit
- Non-profit Property Tax Exemptions

Project Phase Descriptions:

Planning - includes background research, data gathering, initial interviews, and/or internal controls assessment.

Fieldwork - includes data and statistical analyses, interviews, testing of procedures, onsite observations, and/or physical inspections.

Draft Report - includes data and statistical reviews, documenting fieldwork results, initial report writing, revisions, and internal Quality Assurance Review (QAR) prior to supervisory review.

Supervisory Review - includes the review by both Deputy Inspector General and First Assistant Inspector General to ensure sufficiency and appropriateness of evidence, adequate fieldwork procedures, and proper conclusions, content, presentation, and readability.

Legal Review - Report review by in-house General Counsel and/or outside Legal Counsel to ensure appropriate and proper legal citations and/or interpretations.

IG Review - Report review by the Inspector General based on corrections and recommended changes resulting from the Legal Review.

30-Day Comment Period - 30-day deadline for the department to review the draft report and submit management responses for inclusion in the final report.

MEASURING PROGRESS

AUDIT AND REVIEW DIVISION

The following information provides a summary of the Audit Division's project phase and a summary of the audit objectives.

Project Name	Project Phase ¹	Anticipated ² Completion Date
NOAB Contract Audit	Released	March 12, 2026
<p>Summary of Objectives: The purpose of the audit is to verify NOAB management compliance with relevant policies and procedures while procuring professional services contracts and assess the effectiveness of NOAB management controls in ensuring vendor compliance with contract terms.</p>		
EMS Response Time Audit Report	Released	April 16, 2026
<p>Summary of Objectives: The purpose of the audit is to determine whether the City is responding to medical emergencies timely and in accordance with their policies and national standards.</p>		
Non-profit Property Tax Exemptions	Fieldwork	
EMS Response Time Public Letter	Released	April 9, 2026
<p>Summary of Objectives: The purpose of the letter is to recommend that the City reexamine the prior CAO letter regarding EMS staffing levels and compensation, demonstrating how increased personnel and competitive pay would help meet service demands and support revenue generation.</p>		
New Orleans Recreation Department Maintenance Audit	Fieldwork	Ongoing
<p>Summary of Objectives: The objective of the audit is to determine whether NORD maintained their facilities in accordance with policy and best practices.</p>		
Non-profit Property Tax Exemptions	Fieldwork	Ongoing
<p>Summary of Objectives: The objective of the audit is to determine if the City is adequately verifying the eligibility of non-profits exempt from paying property taxes, as well as to determine if organizations are improperly included as exempt.</p>		

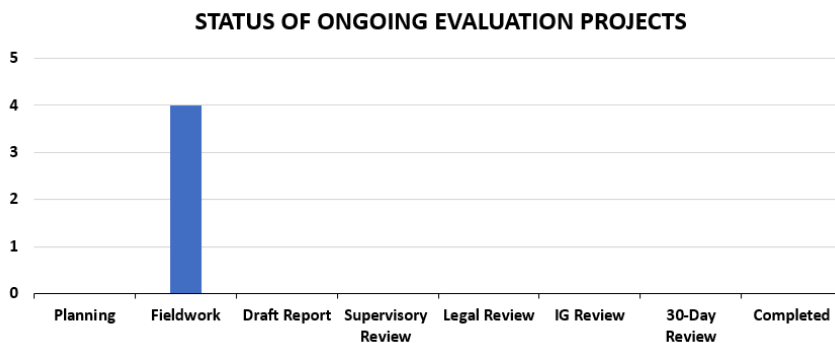
Footnotes:

1 - Project phase determination is based on the objective(s), scope, and methodology for each project. It is not determined by a standard set of hours and/or phase deadline.

2 - The completion date may be re-evaluated if necessary.

INSPECTIONS & EVALUATIONS DIVISION

The Inspections and Evaluations Division works to increase the efficiency, effectiveness, transparency, and accountability of City programs, agencies, and operations. Evaluators conduct independent, objective, empirically based and methodically sound inspections, evaluations, and performance reviews.



The following projects are recently released or in process:

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

Project Phase Descriptions:

Planning - includes background research, data gathering, initial interviews, and/or internal controls assessment.

Fieldwork - includes data and statistical analyses, interviews, testing of procedures, onsite observations, and/or physical inspections.

Draft Report - includes data and statistical reviews, documenting fieldwork results, initial report writing, revisions and internal Quality Assurance Review (QAR) prior to supervisory review.

Supervisory Review - includes the review by both Deputy Inspector General and First Assistant Inspector General to ensure sufficiency and appropriateness of evidence, adequate fieldwork procedures, and proper conclusions, content, presentation and readability.

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30-Day Comment Period - 30-day deadline for the department to review the draft report and submit management responses for inclusion in the final report.

MEASURING PROGRESS

INSPECTIONS AND EVALUATIONS DIVISION

The following information provides a summary of the Inspections and Evaluations Division's project phase and a summary of each project's objectives.

Project Name	Project Phase ₁	Anticipated Completion Date ₂
NORD Booster Clubs and Athletic Teams Resources	Fieldwork	Ongoing
Summary of Objectives: To determine whether NORD has sufficient controls in place to ensure that teams comply with NORD policies and with the law as well as to assess whether NORD's youth athletics registration fee policies and procedures result in equitable and consistent opportunities for the City's youth.		
Equipment Maintenance Division Fleet Management	Fieldwork	Ongoing
Summary of Objectives: To determine if the EMD has policies and procedures to adequately maintain, inventory, and surplus City equipment in an efficient and effective manner.		
Illegal Dumping Policies and Enforcement	Fieldwork	Ongoing
Summary of Objectives: To determine whether the Department of Sanitation and other pertinent agencies have policies, procedures and internal controls to respond to illegal dumping complaints and reduce the occurrence of future illegal dumping events.		
SWBNO Employee Overtime	Fieldwork	Ongoing
Summary of Objectives: To identify trends in overtime usage; review polices, procedures, and internal controls to determine whether resources are used effectively; and determine whether the SWBNO's budget is sufficient to account for anticipated personnel needs.		

Footnotes:

1 - Project phase determination is based on the objective(s), scope, and methodology for each project. It is not determined by a standard set of hours and/or phase deadline.

2 - The completion date may be re-evaluated if necessary.

INVESTIGATION DIVISION

ONGOING PROSECUTIONS:

The Investigation Division continues to assist in the criminal prosecutions of former Mayor LaToya Cantrell and Jeffrey Vappie, as well as Jon Andersen, Gabriel Thomas, and Michael Willis Jr. Updates on these cases are as follows:

Andersen, a local contractor, was arrested April 8, 2026, on four counts of forgery, seven counts of filing false public records, and three counts of online impersonation stemming from a joint investigation by the OIG and the Louisiana State Licensing Board for Contractors. The investigation found evidence to suggest that between June 2024 and June 2025, Andersen submitted multiple forged building and mechanical inspection reports using the following: a fraudulent email address created to resemble that of a third-party inspector, digitally altered photos, and modified prior inspection reports. In addition, he is suspected of uploading a forged construction contract to the City's permit system.

Thomas, a former Sewerage and Water Board of New Orleans (SWBNO) employee, pled guilty on April 2, 2026, to illegal possession of stolen property. He received a two-year suspended sentence with two years of active probation and \$1,000 in restitution. Thomas was arrested by Louisiana State Police's Troop NOLA on Dec. 27, 2024, as part of a joint investigation with the OIG into brass and copper thefts from SWBNO.

Willis, a former City tow truck driver, pled guilty on March 31, 2026, to two counts of malfeasance in office. He received a two-year suspended sentence on each count with two years of active probation and a \$400 fine. A payment status hearing is set for April 30, 2026. Troop NOLA arrested Willis in July 2025 after a joint investigation with the OIG revealed Willis was bypassing the official tow process by accepting cash payments in exchange for not towing vehicles. Willis was again arrested in September 2025 as part of the ongoing joint investigation.

BY THE NUMBERS

The Investigation Division received 14 complaints, secured one search warrant, and initiated seven record requests.

All persons are presumed innocent until proven guilty.

2026 BUDGET

Total 2026 Appropriation \$ 4,398,625

Expenditures	Spent YTD
Personnel	\$ 880,468
Operating	\$ 24,207
Total	\$ 904,675
Remaining Balance	\$ 3,493,950

SOCIAL MEDIA



Facebook and Instagram: @NewOrleansOIG

X: @NOLAOIG

LinkedIn: @OfficeofInspectorGeneralCityofNewOrleans

YouTube: @NOLAOIG1737

New Orleans Office of Inspector General
March 12 at 2:15 PM · 🌐

Today, the New Orleans OIG released a performance audit reviewing whether the New Orleans Aviation Board (NOAB) had adequate policies and procedures for managing service and maintenance contracts, and whether those procedures were effectively implemented.

OIG auditors found that NOAB had adequate policies and procedures but did not consistently implement them for all contracts. For example, a number of the contracts lacked required documentation in the City's procurement-management system, known as BRASS.

The OIG issued recommendations to strengthen contract oversight. NOAB agreed to implement our recommendations to improve operations.

Review the full report here:
<https://nolaig.gov/.../oig-report-new-orleans-aviation.../>



**New Orleans Aviation Board
Contract Audit**

FINAL REPORT

Office of Inspector General City of New Orleans
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In a March 2025 public letter, the OIG identified more than \$122M in City funds at risk of fraud, waste, and abuse due to a lack of sufficient oversight.

Yesterday, the City Council adopted Ordinance No. 35127, taking a critical step to ensure efficient and effective use of these millions of taxpayer dollars.

Requiring criminal justice agencies to use the City's BRASS procurement platform will help ensure transparent, responsible use of City money for public safety.

#NOLAOIG #Transparency #PublicSafety

<https://lnkd.in/gbMNGXWY>

'The City Council has taken an important step to ensure the efficient, transparent, and responsible use of more than \$122 million in taxpayer dollars.'

New Orleans OIG @NOLAOIG · Mar 31

The OIG has released our 2025 Annual Report! We identified \$3.9M in potential savings, flagged \$122.9M in at-risk public funds, and delivered a 104% ROI. We issued 7 reports and letters, completed major investigations, and advanced accountability. Visit nolaig.gov/reports

– **Inspector General Ed Michel**
on the adoption of Ordinance 35127

and delivering a 104% return



**RETURN ON INVESTMENT
104%**

New Orleans OIG @NOLAOIG · Mar 31

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provided detailed guidance

