

MONTHLY REPORT

AUGUST 2026



OIG

**NEW ORLEANS
OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL**

**EDWARD MICHEL, CIG
INSPECTOR GENERAL**

ADMINISTRATION DIVISION



ADMINISTRATION

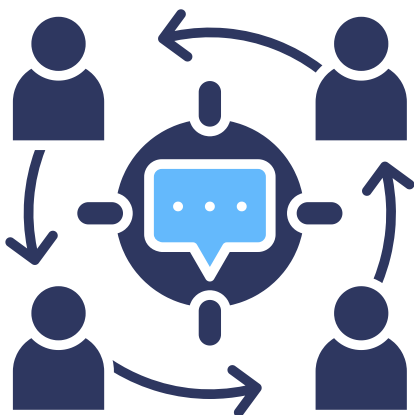
The Office Manager is responsible for the following:

- 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
- Digital Forensics
- Evaluation of Emerging Technology



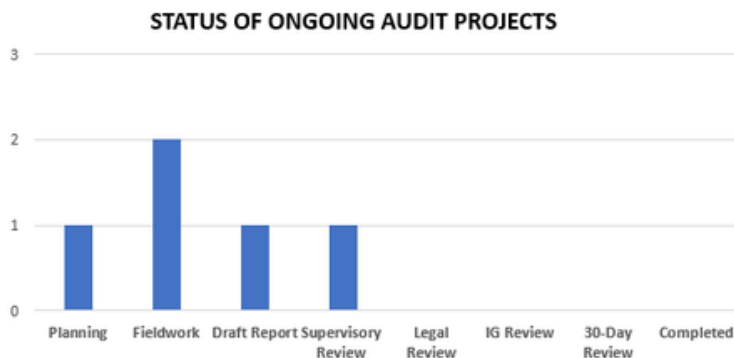
COMMUNICATIONS

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:

- New Orleans Recreation Department Maintenance Audit
- Non-profit Property Tax Exemptions
- New Orleans Sewerage & Water Board Lead Follow-up
- New Orleans 311 Performance Audit
- Recycling Services

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
New Orleans Recreation Department Maintenance Audit	Draft Report	Ongoing
Summary of Objectives: The objective of the audit is to determine whether NORD maintained their facilities in accordance with policy and best practices.		
Non-profit Property Tax Exemptions	Fieldwork	Ongoing
Summary of Objectives: The objective of the audit is to determine if the City is adequately verifying the eligibility of non-profits exempt from paying property taxes, as well as to determine if organizations are improperly included as exempt.		
New Orleans Sewerage and Water Board Lead Follow-up	Supervisory Review	Ongoing
Summary of Objectives: To determine whether the City implemented the changes recommended in the OIG's 2017 report Lead Exposure and Infrastructure Reconstruction, and to update the recommendations based on new legal requirements, as needed.		
New Orleans 311 Performance Audit	Planning	Ongoing
Summary of Objectives: To evaluate whether New Orleans 311 effectively receives, routes, communicates, and tracks service requests. Additionally, it will assess whether communication between 311 and city departments supports timely, accurate, and complete service delivery for residents.		
Recycling Services	Fieldwork	Ongoing
Summary of Objectives: To assess whether the City's recycling contracts are structured to protect the City's interests and to evaluate whether recycling contractors are fulfilling their contractual advertising and public-education obligations.		

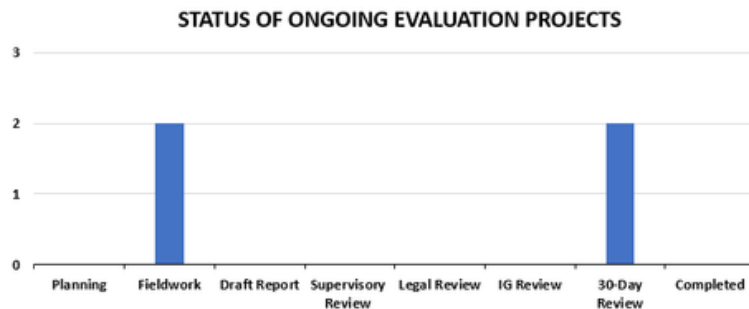
Footnotes:

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 has the following projects 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	30-Day Review	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	30-Day Review	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 policies, 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

NOPD OFFICER ARRESTED IN JOINT INVESTIGATION BY OIG, STATE POLICE

NOPD Senior Police Officer Brandon Coleman was arrested Aug. 7, 2026, on charges of Filing False Public Records (325 counts), Public Payroll Fraud (23 counts), Malfeasance in Office (1 count), and Theft (1 count). The arrest followed a joint investigation with the Louisiana State Police that determined Coleman had received more than \$111,000 in fraudulent overtime payments and submitted false public records to support those claims. As of early September, Coleman remained under emergency suspension awaiting termination. He is scheduled for court hearings on Sept. 9, 2026, and Oct. 6, 2026. This case is one of multiple OIG investigations into potential payroll fraud and timekeeping violations. Any substantiated allegations of fraud identified during ongoing and future investigations will also be referred to state and/or federal prosecutors for further action.

MAN CONVICTED IN 2017 KILLING OF LOCAL CAB DRIVER

Tyrone Jones pled guilty Aug. 24, 2026, to manslaughter, armed robbery, criminal conspiracy to commit armed robbery, conspiracy to commit obstruction of justice, and obstruction of justice in the 2017 murder of a New Orleans cab driver. Jones was sentenced to 22 years in prison. The OIG provided assistance in obtaining and analyzing video evidence for the NOPD and the prosecution in this matter.

ONGOING PROSECUTIONS:

The Investigation Division continues to assist in the criminal prosecutions of former Mayor LaToya Cantrell, Jeffrey Vappie, whose trial is scheduled for March 15, 2027. OIG investigators also continue to assist in the criminal prosecution of former local contractor Randy Farrell, whose trial remains scheduled for Oct. 19, 2026.

The OIG continues to assist in the criminal prosecution of local contractor Jon Andersen. Andersen was arrested April 9, 2026, following an OIG investigation into allegations that he forged a construction contract in the city's permit system and created a fake email address to make it appear as though the documents were sent by an inspector. Andersen was charged with forgery, filing false public records, and online impersonation. Probable cause was found to proceed to trial in Orleans Parish Criminal District Court on eight felony counts. As of early September 2026, Andersen's trial date had not been set.

BY THE NUMBERS

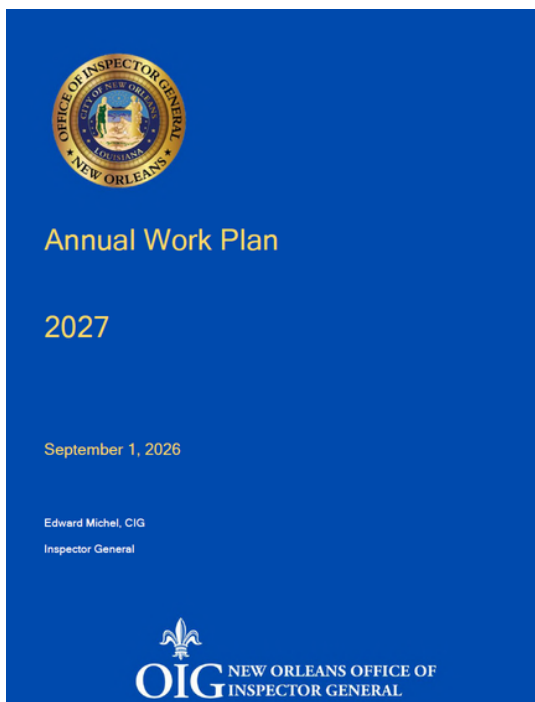
The Investigation Division received and vetted 15 complaints and made two requests for information.

2026 BUDGET

Total 2026 Appropriation \$ 4,398,625

Expenditures	Spent YTD
Personnel	\$ 2,310,880
Operating	\$ 193,986
Total	\$ 2,504,866
Remaining Balance	\$ 1,893,759

OIG 2027 ANNUAL WORK PLAN



The OIG released its 2027 Annual Work Plan, outlining the agency's priorities from Sept. 1, 2026, through Aug. 31, 2027.

Each year, our staff conducts a City-wide Risk Assessment to identify which departments, boards, and commissions face the greatest risks for fraud, waste, and abuse. These findings guide how we allocate resources, select projects, and set our audit and evaluation priorities for the year ahead.

The Annual Work Plan provides City leaders and the public with an overview of our ongoing work and upcoming projects. While the plan establishes our strategic direction, it also remains flexible so we can respond to new information, current events, and emerging issues.

To review the Work Plan, visit [NolaOIG.gov](https://nolaOIG.gov).

OIG IN THE NEWS

**OIG mentions in the media
in August 2026: 61+**

Stay tuned for more!

NOPD officer arrested, accused of payroll fraud



OIG IDENTIFIES 5 HIGH-RISK ENTITIES

- ▶ NOPD
- ▶ NORD
- ▶ Office of the Chief Administrative Officer
- ▶ Health Department / Health and Human Services
- ▶ Office of Information Technology and Innovation



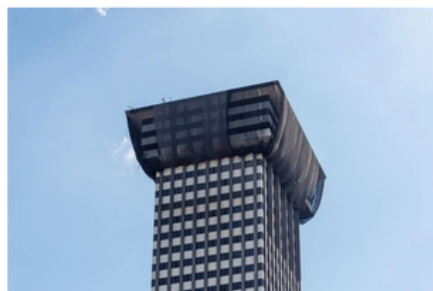
The investigation began when investigators for the New Orleans Office of the Inspector General opened an inquiry into allegations of payroll fraud involving Coleman.



Every week legendary news anchor Norman Robinson speaks his mind on current news stories, events, and anything worthwhile that should be discussed. This week Norman discusses how The Plaza Tower is a threat to public safety.

Plaza Tower has suffered for years from ownership problems, safety concerns. Here's its history.

BY MARCO CARTOLANO | Staff writer Aug 18, 2026 3 min to read



Plaza Tower stands abandoned in the Central Business District of New Orleans, Saturday, Aug. 15, 2026. (Steve Delaney for WDSU)

Aug. 2023: IG says Plaza Tower owner should pay fines

In August 2023, the New Orleans Office of Inspector General [slammed City Hall](#) for inaction over the tower and called for the city to collect on more than \$1 million in accumulated fines and nearly \$200,000 in expenses incurred.

SOCIAL MEDIA



Facebook and Instagram: [@NewOrleansOIG](#)

X: [@NOLAOIG](#)

LinkedIn: [@OfficeofInspectorGeneralCityofNewOrleans](#)

YouTube: [@NOLAOIG1737](#)



Louisiana State Police
August 7 at 7:54 AM · 🌐

REGION NOLA NEWS RELEASE
August 7, 2026

Joint Agency Payroll Fraud Investigation Leads to Arrest of New Orleans Police Officer

New Orleans – In April 2026, detectives with the Louisiana State Police Criminal Investigations Division – New Orleans Field Office (LSP CID) and the New Orleans Office of Inspector General (NO OIG) began a joint investigation into allegations of payroll fraud involving a New Orleans Police Department officer, which resulted in the arrest of 39-year-old Senior Police Officer Brandon Coleman.

The investigation began when NO OIG investigators opened an inquiry into allegations of payroll fraud involving Coleman. As investigators reviewed records, they discovered discrepancies between the overtime hours Coleman reported and the hours he actually worked. They also discovered Coleman's reported work locations did not match his actual locations during some of the claimed overtime periods. Based on these findings, investigators determined that Coleman received over \$111,000 in fraudulent overtime payments and submitted false public records to support those claims between December 2024 and December 2025.

As a result of the investigation, an arrest warrant was obtained for Coleman. On August 7, 2026, he was arrested by LSP CID detectives and booked into the Orleans Justice Center on the following charges: Filing False Public Records (325 counts), Public Payroll Fraud (23 counts), Malfeasance in Office (1 count), and Theft (1 count).

The New Orleans Office of Inspector General stated, "The New Orleans OIG is pleased to partner with the Louisiana State Police to collaboratively identify fraud, waste, and abuse of public money. The OIG will continue to combine resources with our law enforcement partners to hold accountable those who use their public positions for personal gain."

New Orleans Police Department Superintendent Anne Kirkpatrick added, "NOPD has fully cooperated with the independent investigation into this matter and appreciates the work of the Office of Inspector General and Louisiana State Police. Accountability and integrity are fundamental to this department, and we will continue to cooperate as the case moves forward."

Louisiana Attorney General Liz Murrill said, "My office will prosecute this case. I appreciate the work of the Louisiana State Police and the New Orleans Office of Inspector General. We will continue holding public officials accountable for abusing the public's trust."

Louisiana State Police remains committed to working with our local and state partners to protect the integrity of public institutions and preserve the public's trust in the communities we serve. Anyone with information about this case or other criminal activity can report it anonymously through LSP's online reporting system at [LSP.org](#) or by calling the LSP Fusion

The OIG Uses Social Media to Highlight Our:

- Community outreach and educational events
- New reports and letters
- Employment opportunities
- Recent and historical reports
- Partnerships and collaborations
- Fraud hotline
- Employee milestones
- Media presence
- Fraud-prevention tips and other resources



New Orleans OIG @NOLAOIG · Aug 7

A joint investigation by the Louisiana State Police Criminal Investigations Division and the New Orleans OIG led to the arrest of an NOPD Senior Police Officer. To learn more, click here: [lsp.org/community-outr...](#)

