MONTHLY REPORT

OCTOBER 2026



NEW ORLEANS
OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL

EDWARD MICHEL, CIG
INSPECTOR GENERAL

ADMINISTRATION DIVISION

ADMINISTRATION

The Office Manager is responsible for the following:

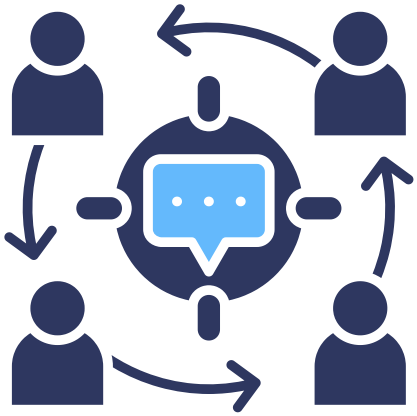
- Human Resources
- Finance
- Procurement Process
- Operations

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



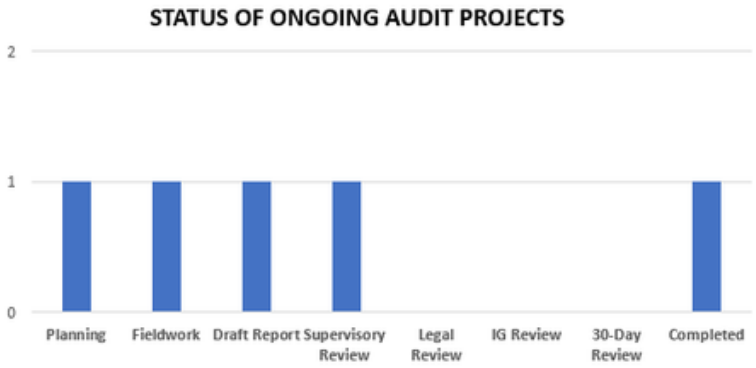
COMMUNICATIONS

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 Sewerage & Water Board Lead Followup
- New Orleans Recreation Department Maintenance Audit
- Non-profit Property Tax Exemptions
- 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 Completion Date[2]
New Orleans Sewerage and Water Board Lead Followup	Completed	Released Oct. 20, 2026

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.

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 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.

Recycling Services	Supervisory Review	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.

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.

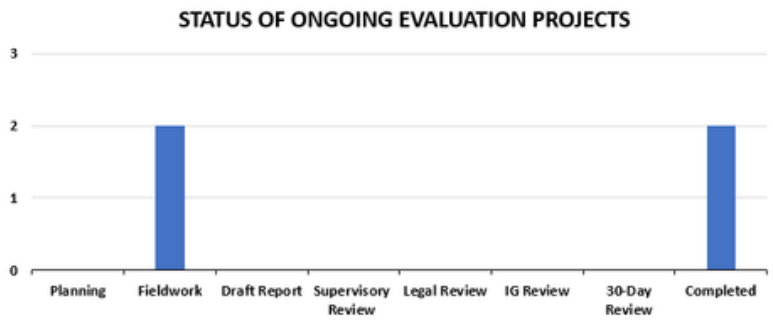
Footnotes:

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:

- Sanitation Cost-Benefit Analysis
- 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.

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

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]
Illegal Dumping Cost Analysis	Completed	Released Oct. 8, 2026

Summary of Objectives: To determine the cost-effectiveness of bringing illegal dumping response efforts in-house, using Sanitation workers rather than continuing to use outside vendors.

Equipment Maintenance Division Fleet Management	Completed	Released Oct. 15, 2026

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

NEW HIRE: OIG gains a second Intelligence Analyst

Susanna Bucci joined the OIG team in October 2026 as an Intelligence Analyst. Her experience includes four years as a Fraud Prevention Analyst for Capital One, a role that involved conducting complex investigations across multiple transaction types and analyzing data to identify trends and risk patterns to prevent criminal financial activity. She has also managed a regulatory compliance database, analyzed workflow inefficiencies, and developed data-driven organizational systems as a portfolio manager for IRA retirement accounts. Bucci holds a Bachelor of Science degree from Huntington University and multiple American Bankers Association certifications, including Fraud Prevention and Operational Risk Management. As an OIG Intelligence Analyst, Bucci will provide skilled analytical support to the Investigation Division and assist in the planning, coordinating, and documenting of investigations, audits, evaluations, and risk assessment.

ONGOING PROSECUTIONS:

The Investigation Division continues to assist in the criminal prosecution of NOPD Senior Police Officer Brandon Coleman. Coleman is accused 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. His next hearing is scheduled for Jan. 4, 2027, in Orleans Parish Criminal District Court.

Coleman's 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.

OIG investigators also continue to assist in the federal criminal prosecution of former local contractor Randy Farrell. Farrell and his company, IECI & Associates¸ are charged in a 25-count indictment with conspiracy, wire fraud, and honest services fraud involving documents filed with the City of New Orleans. As of late October, his next court date was pending.

In addition, the OIG continues to assist in the criminal prosecution of local contractor Jon Andersen, whose trial has been continued to Nov. 30, 2026, in Orleans Parish Criminal District Court. Andersen faces eight felony counts, including forgery, filing false public records, and online impersonation involving submissions made to the New Orleans Department of Safety and Permits.

BY THE NUMBERS

The Investigation Division received and vetted 21 complaints and made three requests for information.

All persons are presumed innocent until proven guilty.

2026 BUDGET

Total 2026 Appropriation $ 4,398,625

Expenditures	Spent YTD
Personnel	$ 2,826,632
Operating	$ 450,317
Total	$ 3,276,949
Remaining Balance	$ 1,121,676

OIG IN THE NEWS

OIG mentions in the media in October 2026:

107



OIG: New Orleans paid $1.4 million for vehicle tracking, nearly $500,000 went unused



By Rob Krieger
Published: Oct. 15, 2026 at 2:18 PM CDT

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NEW ORLEANS (WVUE) - The New Orleans Office of Inspector General said significant gaps remain in the city's management of its vehicle fleet, including millions of dollars in tracking software that was not fully deployed, incomplete maintenance records and a noncompetitive process used to select a company to auction surplus vehicles.

The findings come from a new OIG evaluation of the city's Equipment Maintenance Division, which manages more than 2,500 city vehicles and assets valued at more than $80 million.

Inspector General says New Orleans' lead water line replacement effort needs more effort



The Sewerage and Water Board of New Orleans is facing a 2037 federal deadline to find and replace lead water lines in the city. (Fox 8)

By Chris Joseph
Published: Oct. 21, 2026 at 3:15 PM CDT

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NEW ORLEANS (WVUE) - Inspector General Ed Michel says New Orleans needs to be more proactive in replacing its lead water lines.

Michel released a letter Wednesday (Oct. 21) saying the Sewerage and Water Board of New Orleans met some of the goals laid out in his office's 2017 report on the city's lead-line replacement.

The utility is under a 2037 federal deadline to find and replace lead water pipes in the city. SWBNO executive director Randy Hayman has estimated more than half of the water lines in the city are made of lead.

The inspector general's office said Wednesday the SWBNO has not fully developed a "comprehensive" public education plan on the issue, but has created a website to offer residents information about the location of lead lines in the city.

New Orleans could save $13.1 million by handling illegal dumping cleanup in-house, OIG says

New Orleans could save millions by having sanitation staff handle more illegal dumping cleanup, an OIG letter says. The letter explains how the estimate was calculated and what could change.



WDSU | Updated: 4:26 PM CDT Oct 8, 2026 | Editorial Standards

Bun Choum
Managing Editor

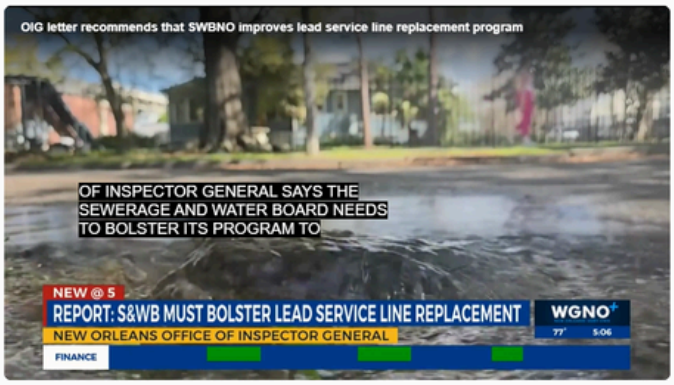
NEW ORLEANS — New Orleans could save about $13.2 million over 10 years by having Department of Sanitation employees respond to illegal dumping complaints, according to an Oct. 8 letter from the city's Office of Inspector General.

WGNO New Orleans | Follow

OIG letter recommends that SWBNO improves lead service line replacement program

Alana Thompson
Wed, October 21, 2026 at 3:00 PM CDT
2 min read

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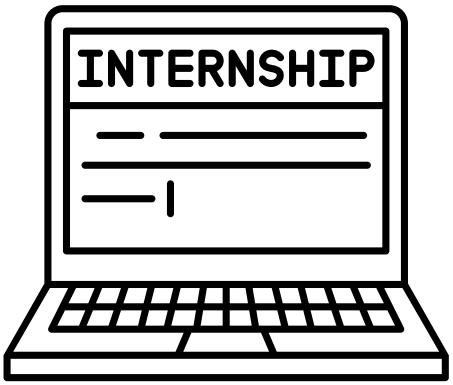
NEW ORLEANS (WGNO) — In a letter issued to the Sewerage and Water Board of New Orleans, the New Orleans Inspector General recommended that it strengthen its lead service line replacement program.

The 14-page letter states that the LSL needs to be improved in order to comply with federal deadlines and to protect the public health of New Orleanians.

OIG INTERNS

The **OIG's internship program** attracts talented undergraduate, graduate, and law students to help achieve our mission. OIG internships provide invaluable real-world experience while bolstering our efforts to combat fraud, waste, and abuse in City government. Learn about our current interns below!

Lauren Cormier is a senior at Tulane University completing a Bachelor's degree in Homeland Security and International Relations, with a minor in Psychology. She also serves as a research assistant in Tulane's Political Science Department, supporting Professor Changwook Ju's work on non-state actors and wartime violence against non-combatants. Her experience also includes previous internships in grant management and law enforcement policy at the Office of National Drug Control Policy, which is a member of the Executive Offices of the President in Washington, D.C. Her work for the OIG includes research and analysis for multiple Audit & Review Division investigative projects.



Rudy Johnson is a Juris Doctor candidate at Loyola University New Orleans' College of Law. She holds a Bachelor's degree in Legal Studies and a Master of Public Administration, both from Tulane University, and has served as an investigator intern for the Orleans Public Defenders and a paralegal intern and administrator at a private law firm. Her background includes extensive experience in legal support, contract administration, and compliance. She has a strong foundation in transactional law, public procurement, and organizational management. Her work for the OIG includes research and analysis for multiple Inspections & Evaluations Division projects, including several upcoming projects.

Maya Hernandez is a senior at Loyola University New Orleans, completing a Bachelor's degree in Psychological Sciences with a minor in Marketing. She has research experience in both of those disciplines and plans to complete her thesis in either Forensic or Military Psychology. She serves as an on-campus tutor in the Office of Writing and Learning Services and, as a student-athlete, is a representative for the Student-Athlete Advisory Committee. She earned a promotion to Student Community Director and Social Media and Content Manager of Loyola's Esports Program. Her work for the OIG includes research and analysis for multiple Inspections & Evaluations Division projects, including several upcoming projects.

Robyn Keiles is a senior at Tulane University, completing a Bachelor's degree in Homeland Security and Sociology with a certificate in Computer Science. She has served as a security intern for the U.S. Tennis Association, which included supporting security preparations and real-time command center operations for the U.S. Open.
Her experience also includes working as a Homeland Security and Emergency Management Intern for the U.S. Coast Guard - Sector New York, program operations assistant at several Covenant House locations, and participant in the FBI Teen Academy in New York. Her work for the OIG includes research and analysis for multiple Audit & Review Division investigative projects.



SOCIAL MEDIA



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