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**MEDIA CONTACT:
Paula Pendarvis
504-717-7591**

OIG INVESTIGATION RESULTS IN BRIBERY CONVICTION OF PARKING BOOT WORKER

The driver of a van equipped with license plate reading cameras to track down vehicles with outstanding City of New Orleans traffic citations has pleaded guilty to commercial bribery.

Investigators from the Office of Inspector General determined that on September 29, 2015, Michael Crawford solicited and received a \$380 bribe in exchange for removing immobilizing boots from a vehicle parked outside a church. Surveillance camera video shows Crawford exit a van and place two boots on a vehicle, and later remove them. Bank video shows the victim's vehicle and the van driven by Crawford at the bank while the victim is withdrawing \$380 from an ATM machine.

Crawford was an employee of Standard Parking, which operates under the acronym SP+. SP+ is a subcontractor to Duncan Solutions, the City's prime contractor for the administration and payment of parking and safety camera tickets.

On December 15, 2016, in Orleans Criminal District Court, Crawford pleaded guilty to RS 14:73 commercial bribery and several other charges unrelated to the OIG's case. He received a six-month sentence.

Crawford's actions, in addition to soliciting a bribe, deprived the City of its opportunity to collect \$870 in outstanding tickets issued to the victim's vehicle for safety camera violations.

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