

MONTHLY REPORT

FEBRUARY 2022



OIG

NEW ORLEANS
OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL

EDWARD MICHEL, CIG
INSPECTOR GENERAL

ADMINISTRATION DIVISION



1,837

Number of registered Twitter followers

ADMINISTRATION

The Office Manager is responsible for the following ongoing tasks:

- Posting and reviewing applications for the Criminal Investigator, Auditor, and Evaluator, and General Counsel vacancies
- Organizing and securing OIG personnel files and creating a comprehensive filing system
- Coordinating and maintaining the OIG vehicle service records and travel logs
- Coordinating the OIG records management activities
- Reconciling 2021 Year-end purchases and preparing for the 2021 Budget close-out
- Preparing the 2022 Purchase Orders for the 2022 OIG purchases

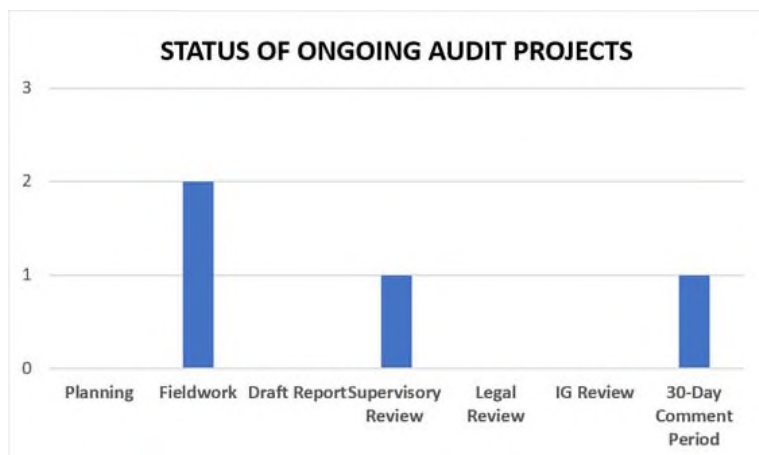
INFORMATION SECURITY

The OIG Information Security Specialist is responsible for the following tasks to maintain the OIG's information technology (IT) integrity

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

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:

- BRASS Procurement System
- Orleans Parish Communications District (OPCD) Expenditures
- Department of Public Works (DPW)/SW&B Coordination
- Safety and Permits City Employee Inspections

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
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DPW/S&WB Coordination	Supervisory Review	4/30/2022
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Summary of Objectives: To determine if the City of New Orleans and S&WB have sufficient policies and procedures relevant to coordinating the \$2 billion Capital Improvement Program and that the internal controls are operating effectively.

BRASS Procurement System	30-Day Comment Period	3/31/2022
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Summary of Objectives: To determine if management's BRASS Procurement System's internal controls are designed properly and implemented and operating effectively.

Orleans Parish Communications District	Fieldwork	Ongoing
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Summary of Objectives: To determine if management's internal controls are designed properly and implemented and operating effectively to ensure expenses and disbursements were business-related and allowed by law.

Safety & Permits City Employee Inspections	Fieldwork	Ongoing
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Summary of Objectives: To determine if City employees performed on-site inspections at various locations.

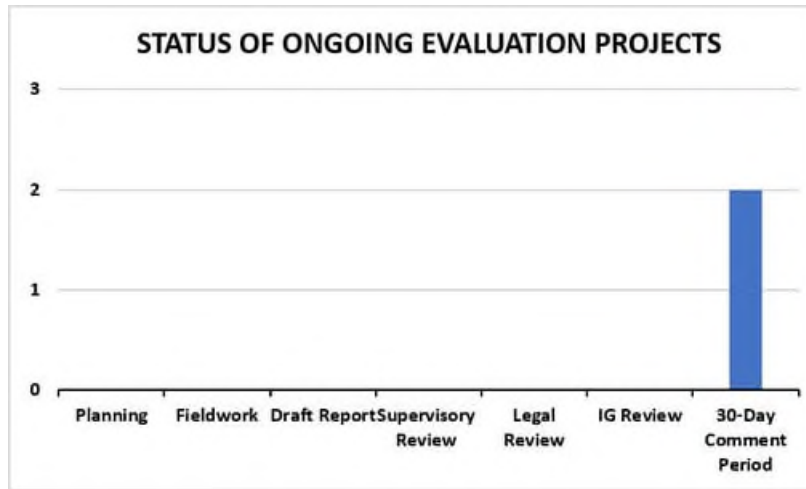
Footnotes:

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 Inspections & Evaluations Division has the following projects in process:

- Firefighters' Pension Fund Governance
- NOLA 311 Potholes

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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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 the each project's objectives.

Project Name	Project Phase ¹	Anticipated ² Completion Date
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Firefighters' Pension Fund Governance	30-Day Comment Period	3/31/2022
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Summary of Objectives: To determine if the Firefighters' Pension Fund investment policies and practices are consistent with authoritative sources and best practices, and adequately consider risks.

NOLA 3-1-1- Potholes	30-Day Comment Period	3/31/2022
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Summary of Objectives: To determine if the City properly and timely triages and resolves complaints received for the reporting of potholes on streets throughout the community.

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.

INVESTIGATIONS DIVISION

ADMINISTRATIVE INVESTIGATIONS (FEBRUARY HIGHLIGHTS)

Issued a Report of Investigation on Sewerage & Water Board Employees' Fraudulent Utilization of Handicap Hang-tags.

Issued a letter to the Assessor's Office concerning three residential properties which continued to receive a homestead exemption and senior freeze reduction despite the listed homeowner reportedly being deceased. Assessor's Office acknowledged receipt of the letter.

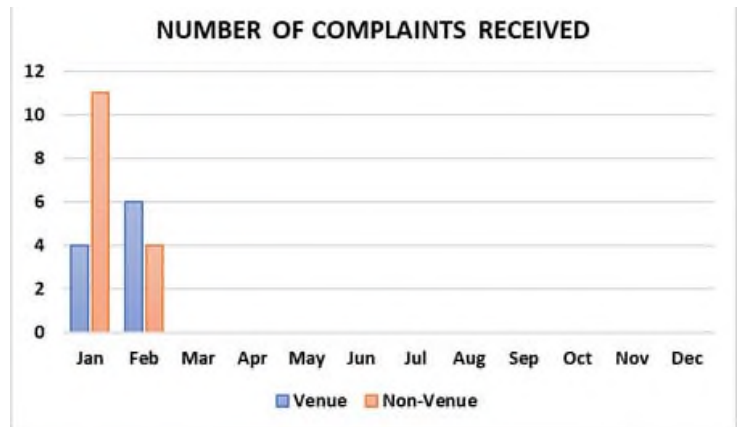
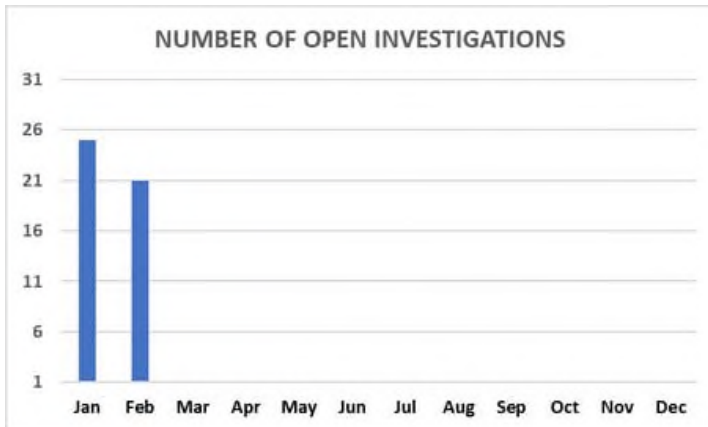
Issued a letter to the Assessor's Office concerning a homeowner receiving a homestead exemption for two residential properties, one in Orleans Parish, and the other in Lafayette Parish.

Issued a Request for Documents to the Office of Secondary Employment.

MEASURING PROGRESS

INVESTIGATIONS DIVISION

The Investigations Division conducts criminal and administrative investigations involving City of New Orleans employees, contractors, and vendors that receive City funds. Investigators also work with local, state, and federal partners to conduct joint investigations. The Investigations Division is also available to provide fraud awareness training to City employees and to engage in other outreach programs with businesses and citizens.



Venue: Matters that the OIG has the jurisdiction to investigate

Non-Venue: Matters outside of the OIG's jurisdiction

2022 BUDGET

Funding:	\$3,581,754	
Expenditures:	Encumbered Amount	Actual Amount
Personnel	\$2,774,788	\$253,676
Operating	\$277,089	\$7,484
Total Expenditures	\$3,051,877	\$261,160
Fund Balance	\$529,877	

2021 BUDGET

Funding:	\$3,484,529
Expenditures:	Amount
Personnel	\$1,883,501
Operating	\$998,827
Total Expenditures	\$2,882,328
Fund Balance	\$602,201

Finalized 2021 Budget as of March 8, 2022.

Note: in 2021 there were several personnel vacancies including that of a General Counsel and a permanent Inspector General.

OIG IN THE NEWS

They've been dinged repeatedly. Still, S&WB workers use handicap placards to park illegally

"I'm appalled by it," said City Council member Oliver Thomas

BY MIKE PERLSTEIN | WWL-TV FEB 3, 2022 - 10:30 PM



The New Orleans Sewerage and Water Board headquarters are downtown at 525 St. Joseph Street at the intersection with St. Charles Avenue. (File photo by Beau Evans, NOLA.com | The Times-Picayune)



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From customer billing mistakes to shady inspectors, the New Orleans Sewerage and Water Board has suffered its share of self-inflicted controversies.

Add another ongoing problem to the list: S&WB employees using handicapped placards that weren't issued to them to park illegally in front of the utility's Joseph Street office.

What's remarkable about the ongoing scam is that it has been flagged before. Repeatedly.

The New Orleans Inspector General's office exposed the problem in 2017, catching 26 employees illegally using other people's handicapped placards. Then in 2018, WWL-TV caught several employees in the act.



OIG ON SOCIAL MEDIA

