

OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL
CITY OF NEW ORLEANS



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COURT DID NOT REMIT FUNDS TO THE CITY

The Office of New Orleans Inspector General today released a report of its audit of Municipal Court's collections and remittances to the City. The audit was requested by former CAO Brenda Hatfield.

The audit found that the Court did not remit any funds to the City in 2009 as required by law, and it also found that the City did not audit the Court in 2009 as required by ordinance. The Court stated that the relevant laws were archaic and obsolete, and that it had developed a "tacit informal agreement" with the executive and legislative branches to ignore them.

Inspector General Ed Quatrevaux said, "Operating outside the law is a poor practice for government. It overrides the internal controls that protect against fraud and abuse. It also undermines respect for and compliance with the laws the Court administers. If the laws are obsolete, the Court and the Administration have a responsibility to seek legislative change."

The report also found administrative deficiencies: some court employees were classified as contractors, effective disbursement controls were lacking, and the Court permitted purchases that created an appearance of waste.

The report is attached to this press release. Other reports issued by the Office of Inspector General can be viewed and downloaded from the website at <http://www.nolaoig.org>.

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