

CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE
CITY OF NEW ORLEANS

LATOYA CANTRELL
MAYOR

GILBERT A. MONTAÑO
CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

August 8, 2018

Mr. Derry Harper
Inspector General
New Orleans Office of Inspector General
525 St. Charles Ave.; Ste. 300
New Orleans, LA 70130

Dear Mr. Harper:

We recently learned that on March 9, 2018, the New Orleans Office of Inspector General issued a "Final Report" of Investigation in response to an "Allegation that Specific City Department Heads and Managers Have Each Received Free Tickets to Jazz Fest." As you are aware, all allegations referenced in the subject report pre-date the arrival of the Cantrell administration on May 7, 2018. Following the transition, your office advised the City of New Orleans' (the "City") new City Attorney, Sunni LeBeouf, that your office was awaiting the City's response to the "Final Report" of March 9, 2018. In an effort to accurately respond to your request, the City Attorney reached out to representatives of the prior administration knowledgeable about the referenced "Final Report," and subsequent actions taken to address the deficiencies identified.

In response to our inquiry, prior City officials advised that the subject City Department officials were instructed not to accept Jazz Festival tickets going forward. This instructive would have included the 2018 Jazz Festival. A representative from the Department of Revenue advised that the Jazz Festival organization denied the Department of Revenue's 2018 request



for credentials, instead of tickets, to perform their work related on-site functions. Therefore Department of Revenue employees were again issued Jazz Festival tickets to obtain entry and perform their required work related functions in 2018. We have otherwise not been able to fully confirm that no deficiencies occurred with Jazz Festival ticket distribution in 2018 prior to our arrival. Accordingly, we are working to draft a policy to ensure that our City Department officials are aware of their obligations in advance of the 2019 New Orleans Jazz and Heritage Festival. We will follow-up with additional information as to the relevant policies implemented going forward.

We thank you for your patience through the transition of administrations.

Very truly yours,



Gilbert Montañó
Chief Administrative Officer
City of New Orleans