

OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL
CITY OF NEW ORLEANS



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FMC GIVES AWAY PUBLIC FUNDS

The City of New Orleans Inspector General today released a report on its audit of the French Market Corporation Use of Funds.

The audit revealed that the FMC made sponsorship payments totaling \$64,696 to private organizations in violation of the Louisiana Constitution. The FMC also failed to comply with Civil Service rules concerning overtime pay. Finally, the FMC response to this report stated its intention to consider renewal of a 10-year lease for the Edison Park property on Bourbon Street instead of engaging in a competitive process to get the best value for the City.

Inspector General Ed Quatrevaux said, "The City got \$1 per year for 10 years on the current lease while the lessee received over a million dollars for the same property. It is inexplicable why the City would not engage in a competitive process for a new lease."

For comment, additional information or to schedule an interview, call Laura Paul, 504 344-4884

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