



CITY OF NEW ORLEANS ETHICS REVIEW BOARD

525 St. Charles Avenue New Orleans, LA 70130-3409

erb@nolaerb.gov

<https://www.nolaerb.gov/>

BOARD MEETING

Monday, October 18, 2021

3:30 P.M.

The board will conduct this meeting via Zoom Video Conference and Telephone Conference

Video Conference Link: <https://loyno.zoom.us/j/5049753263>

Telephone Conference Dial-In Number: 312-626-6799; ID No. 504 975 3263

Certification of Necessity pursuant to [Louisiana Revised Statutes section 42:17.1](#): The board hereby certifies that the Governor of the State of Louisiana has declared a state of emergency or disaster involving the geographic area of the City of New Orleans. A live meeting would be detrimental to the health, safety, or welfare of the public and the members of the Ethics Review Board. The agenda contains matters that are critical to continuation of the business of the Ethics Review Board and are not able to be postponed to a live meeting due to a legal requirement or other deadline that cannot be postponed or delayed by the Ethics Review Board. The public can attend and participate in the videoconference meeting by joining the conference by telephone or videoconference as described above.

AGENDA

1. Regular Business
 - a. Ratification of certification of necessity for videoconference/teleconference meeting (Chair).
 - b. Approval of minutes of previous two board meetings (Chair).
 - c. Discussion of monthly report or update from the Office of Inspector General (Chair).
 - d. Discussion of monthly report or update from the Office of Independent Police Monitor (Chair).
 - e. Report of Executive Administrator and General Counsel (Chair).
 - i. Report on Peer Review of Ethics Review Board.
 - ii. Report on proposed ordinance to broaden pool of IG candidates.
 - iii. Report on proposed ordinance to regulate campaign contributions by city service providers.

- f. Report of Ethics Trainer (Stiggs).
- 2. Continuing Business
 - a. Report of OIG search committee and Ralph Anderson & Associates.
 - b. Report of OIPM search committee.
- 3. New Business
 - a. Opportunity for suggestions on future agenda topics from board, staff, and public.
- 4. Adjournment (Chair).

**Draft Minutes of
August Board
Meeting**



ERB
ETHICS REVIEW BOARD

DRAFT

Ethics Review Board for the City of New Orleans

Board Meeting of August 09, 2021, at 3:30 P.M.

Conducted via Zoom Teleconference Due to COVID-19 Emergency

Minutes

1. *Call to Order.*
 - 1.1. The chair called the meeting to order at 3:31p.m.
 - 1.2. Board members present:
 - 1.2.1. Wanda A. Brooks
 - 1.2.2. Elizabeth Livingston de Calderon, Chair.
 - 1.2.3. Holly Callia.
 - 1.2.4. Michael A. Cowan.
 - 1.2.5. Monique G. Doucette.
 - 1.2.6. Tyrone G. Jefferson, Jr.
 - 1.2.7. Torin T. Sanders.
 - 1.3. Board member absent: None.
 - 1.4. Staff member present: Dane S. Ciolino, Executive Administrator and General Counsel.
 - 1.5. The Chair declared that a quorum of the board was present and commenced the meeting via Zoom videoconference and teleconference.
 - 1.6. The agenda for the meeting is attached.

2. *Ratification of Prior Written Certification of Emergency Need for Video Conference Meeting.* Pursuant to [State of Louisiana Executive Department Proclamation No. JBE 2020-30 Section 4 \(March 16, 2020\)](#) and subsequent orders and legislation addressing the COVID-19 state of emergency, the ERB unanimously agreed to conduct this meeting by video conference and audio conference after certifying that the ERB would not otherwise have been able to operate due to quorum requirements due to the ongoing COVID-19 emergency.
3. *Approval of the Minutes.* The Board unanimously approved the minutes of the July 2021, Board meeting.
4. *Report of the Office of Inspector General.*
 - 4.1. The Office of the Inspector General was represented by Interim IG Ed Michel. Other OIG staff members also were in attendance, including Erica Smith and Larry Douglass.
 - 4.2. Mr. Michel discussed the monthly report of the OIG. *See* Attached OIG Monthly Report.
 - 4.3. OIG personnel discussed the budgets for the OIG (attached).
 - 4.4. The OIG will commence hiring a new auditor and a new investigator to “ramp up” staffing in the office.
 - 4.5. The OIG will begin improving its IT and computer systems to deliver significant upgrades.
 - 4.6. Audits are underway of the S&WB, BRASS and other departments.
 - 4.7. The OIG prevailed in its litigation relating to the jurisdiction of the OIG over the City’s Communications District.
 - 4.8. The OIG recommended fraud charges involving the Hard Rock inspections and collapse.
 - 4.9. An investigation into the Assessor’s Office continues regarding the award of homestead exemptions to deceased individuals.
 - 4.10. The OIG is updating the appearance and format of its monthly report.
 - 4.11. Ms. Brooks inquired further about the homestead exemption investigation and whether monies will be recovered. Mr. Michel noted that there will be a retroactive assessment imposed to correct any errors.
 - 4.12. Ms. Brooks inquired as to the OIG’s peer review and who would conduct the review. Mr. Michel responded that a group from the National Association of Inspectors General would perform the audit.

- 4.13. Ms. Calderon inquired into when the OIG would begin relying on in-house counsel for legal advice. Mr. Michel responded that outside lawyers at Chaffe McCall were now providing advice but that the new inspector general would hire “permanent” inside counsel.
5. *Report of the Office of the Independent Police Monitor.*
 - 5.1. Interim IPM Stella Cziment appeared for the OIPM. Ms. Boncyle Sokunbi was also in attendance.
 - 5.2. Ms. Cziment discussed her office’s monthly report. *See Attached OIPM Monthly Report.*
 - 5.3. Ms. Cziment reported a “busy month.” Noted that the QARAC provided helpful suggestions and that those suggestions have been included in her office’s 6-Month Action Plan.
 - 5.4. Ms. Cziment noted that she is now monitoring the curriculum at the NOPD Police Academy.
 - 5.5. Ms. Cziment stated that she is including social media summaries to reflect community involvement.
 - 5.6. Ms. Cziment reported that she is adding progress on goals in her action plan for purposes of greater transparency.
 - 5.7. Ms. Calderon congratulated Ms. Cziment on the QARAC report.
 - 5.8. Ms. Calderon asked when the peer review report is due. Ms. Cziment responded that the peer review committee is working but she did not have a recent update. She promised a report next month.
6. *Vote on Motion Regarding Campaign Finance Reform*
 - 6.1. Mr. Sanders moved to take out of order the item on proposal for campaign finance reform (attached to agenda). The vote was unanimous in favor of doing so.
 - 6.2. David Marcello spoke to the board by invitation about the proposal. He reported that it was a good idea. His written comments are attached to the minutes. He did not that there are concerns with the proposal relating to whether the city has authority to regulate in the area when there exist state campaign finance laws. He also noted that potential First Amendment concerns exist.
 - 6.3. Mr. Sanders moved to adopt the following proposal:
 1. No City Councilmember or candidate seeking the office of City Councilmember shall accept or otherwise receive a campaign contribution or any other financial benefit of any value from:

- a. Entergy, Cox Communications or other entity that provides a utility, cable, telecommunications or technology service regulated by the City Council;
 - b. Any political action committee, director or executive staff person of a corporation or entity regulated by the City Council that either can be reimbursed by the regulated company or is otherwise a conduit contribution from the regulated company;
 - c. Any person, firm or entity with a professional services contract awarded by or pertaining to the City Council; or
 - d. Any person, firm or entity with a professional service contract awarded by or pertaining to the New Orleans Sewerage and Water Board.
2. No later than 30 days from the deadline of qualifying as a candidate for the office of City Councilmember, the candidate shall submit an affidavit to the New Orleans Ethics Review Board and the City Law Department that affirms or denies the following:
 - a. Acceptance of compensation or financial benefit of any value from an entity regulated by the City Council or contracted to provide a service to the City Council in the last five years; and/or
 - b. Any time served on the board of a corporation or entity that is either regulated by the City Council or contracted to provide a service to the City Council.
- 6.4. The motion was seconded. A discussion and public comment period followed the motion and second.
 - 6.5. Public comments
 - 6.5.1. Gregory Manning, the Chair of the Greater N.O. Benefit Coalition spoke in favor of adopting the proposal.
 - 6.5.2. Robert Sullivan submitted in a public comment in favor of the proposal.
 - 6.5.3. Jonathan Leo spoke in favor of the proposal.
 - 6.5.4. Jesse George submitted a slip in favor of the proposal.
 - 6.5.5. Robert Demarais submitted a slip in favor of the proposal.
 - 6.6. Mr. Cowan asked Mr. Marcello for his thoughts about the proposal, including whether the city had lawful authority to regulate in the area. Mr. Marcello

responded that he suspected that the city and the state had concurrent authority to regulate in the area. Mr. Marcello reiterated that he supported the proposal in principle.

- 6.7. Ms. Calderon noted her concern about regulating candidates and not just council members. She presumed that the council would consider the legal issues before adopting any proposal.
- 6.8. A vote was called on the question. The vote was unanimous in favor of the proposal.
7. *Report of Executive Administrator and General Counsel.*
 - 7.1. Mr. Ciolino reported that the board had received no new complaints.
 - 7.2. Mr. Ciolino discussed the board's upcoming deadlines and events.
 - 7.3. Mr. Ciolino reported that a peer review committee to evaluate the Ethics Review Board is working on a peer review.
 - 7.4. The board requested advance copies of draft minutes from Mr. Ciolino.
8. *IG Search Committee Report*
 - 8.1. Mr. Cowan reported on the progress of the IG search. The brochure is completed and published. The search firm is recruiting through networks. The firm is expected to recommend candidates for interview by late September or early October. The committee hopes to narrow the number of candidates to bring to the board fewer than 5 candidates.
 - 8.2. Ms. Calderon noted that the committee needs to make sure that the search firm complies with the guidelines for the search previously sent to the search firm.
9. *IPM Search Committee Report*
 - 9.1. Dr. Sanders reported that there was no activity this month.
 - 9.2. Dr. Sanders expected to have a progress report next month.
10. *Vote on Amendment to ERB Rules Regarding the Election of Officers*
 - 10.1. The board moved to adopt a procedure for "appointments at end of term" as follows:

Each year, all officers' terms expire on June 30th. At a meeting in May or June, the chair will accept nominations for each soon-to-be-vacant position. The board will vote on each nominee. Each nominee receiving a

majority of votes will assume the position. Typically, the board will first vote on president, then vice-president, and then secretary.

10.2. The motion was seconded. The motion was briefly discussed. The board voted unanimously in favor of the proposal.

10.3. The board moved to adopt a procedure for “appointments to fill vacancies” as follows:

If any officer position should become vacant before the officer’s term expires on June 30th, the chair will accept nominations for the vacant or soon-to-be-vacant position. The board will vote on each nominee. The nominee receiving a majority of votes will assume the position. The person elected to the position will serve to the end of the term.

10.4. The motion was seconded. The motion was briefly discussed. The board voted unanimously in favor of the proposal.

11. *Report on Changing Dates of Meetings*

11.1. Mr. Ciolino reported that it was not possible to obtain the Council Chambers for new dates in 2021.

11.2. Therefore, the board meeting dates for 2021 will remain unchanged.

12. *Recommendations for Future Proposed Agenda Items:* None received.

13. *Adjournment.*

13.1. A motion was made to adjourn the board meeting.

13.2. The motion was seconded.

13.3. The board unanimously voted to adjourn. The meeting was adjourned at 5:15 p.m.

* END *

**Draft Minutes of
September
Board Meeting**

DRAFT



Ethics Review Board for the City of New Orleans

Board Meeting of September 13, 2021, at 3:30 P.M.

Conducted via Zoom Teleconference Due to COVID-19 Emergency

Minutes

1. *Call to Order.*
 - 1.1. The chair called the meeting to order at 3:32p.m.
 - 1.2. Board members present:
 - 1.2.1. Wanda A. Brooks
 - 1.2.2. Elizabeth Livingston de Calderon, Chair.
 - 1.2.3. Holly Callia.
 - 1.2.4. Monique G. Doucette.
 - 1.2.5. Tyrone G. Jefferson, Jr.
 - 1.2.6. Torin T. Sanders.
 - 1.3. Board member absent:
 - 1.3.1. Michael A. Cowan
 - 1.4. Staff member present: Dane S. Ciolino, Executive Administrator and General Counsel.
 - 1.5. The Chair declared that a quorum of the board was present and commenced the meeting via Zoom videoconference and teleconference.
 - 1.6. The agenda for the meeting is attached.

2. *Ratification of Prior Written Certification of Emergency Need for Video Conference Meeting.* Pursuant to [State of Louisiana Executive Department Proclamation No. JBE 2020-30 Section 4 \(March 16, 2020\)](#) and subsequent orders and legislation addressing the COVID-19 state of emergency, the ERB unanimously agreed to conduct this meeting by video conference and audio conference after certifying that the ERB would not otherwise have been able to operate due to quorum requirements due to the ongoing COVID-19 emergency.
3. *Approval of the Minutes.* Due to Hurricane Ida, no minutes from the last board meeting were adopted.
4. *Report of the Office of Inspector General.*
 - 4.1. The Office of the Inspector General was represented by Interim IG Ed Michel. Other OIG staff members also were in attendance, including Erica Smith and Larry Douglass.
 - 4.2. Mr. Michel discussed the monthly report of the OIG. *See* Attached OIG Monthly Report.
 - 4.3. Mr. Michel discussed the new format for the OIG monthly report.
 - 4.4. Mr. Michel noted that social media “follows” have increased.
 - 4.5. Ms. Calderon noted that the ERB sent an ethics complaint to the OIG for evaluation and report. Mr. Michel promised to speak with Mr. Bonney and get a report to the board next month.
5. *Report of the Office of the Independent Police Monitor.*
 - 5.1. Interim IPM Stella Cziment appeared for the OIPM. Ms. Sokunbi was also in attendance.
 - 5.2. Ms. Cziment discussed her office’s monthly report. *See* Attached OIPM Monthly Report.
 - 5.3. Ms. Cziment reported that her office had acted on two QARAC recommendations to accommodate requests from NOPD officers and to revise the office’s website.
 - 5.4. Ms. Cziment noted that her office was monitoring the NOPD during Hurricane Ida pursuant to her office’s new emergency plan. Just after the storm, her office was briefed by NOPD PID. Her leadership team was working shortly after the storm passed.
 - 5.5. Ms. Cziment noted that one police officer had been shot by a bullet and received a graze wound.

- 5.6. Ms. Cziment reported that a peer review of her office is underway. Lack of progress has been a problem. She has spoken to the team about this and will have more information for the board in October. This is NACOLE's first peer review and it is experiencing problems with this review.
 - 5.7. Ms. Cziment reported on OIPM oversight (see attached item).
 - 5.8. Mr. Sanders asked about NOPD "detail jobs," that is side employment by officers. Mr. Cziment noted that the DOJ was concerned about those issues as well and that the Office of Secondary Employment now handles such matters and things have improved.
6. *Report of IG Hiring Committee and Search Firm*
- 6.1. The board voted unanimously to take this issue out of order.
 - 6.2. Robert Burg reported on the status of the IG search. He noted that the formal application period lasts approximately one month. He noted that five applications have been received, three of which are very promising. He noted that the negative publicity related to Hurricane Ida has adversely affected recruiting.
 - 6.3. Ms. Callia asked when the board will see applications. Mr. Burg responded that in October he anticipated sharing applications.
 - 6.4. Mr. Jefferson asked whether Ed Michel had applied. Mr. Burg responded in the affirmative.
 - 6.5. Ms. Calderon asked whether any candidates had withdrawn because of Ida. Mr. Burg responded "no."
 - 6.6. Ms. Calderon asked about the search firm's outreach efforts. Mr. Burg responded that he was waiting for storm coverage to subside to continue those efforts.
 - 6.7. Mr. Burg reported that his office would do background checks on candidates to "avoid surprises."
7. *Report of Executive Administrator and General Counsel*
- 7.1. Mr. Ciolino reported that the board had received no new complaints.
 - 7.2. Mr. Ciolino discussed the board's upcoming deadlines and events.
 - 7.3. Mr. Ciolino reported on the hiring of Mr. Stiggs as ethics trainer.
 - 7.4. Mr. Ciolino reported that he has forwarded proposed ordinance change re campaign finance to the Council.

8. *Report of the Ethics Trainer*

- 8.1. Mr. Stiggs introduced himself to the board.
- 8.2. Mr. Stiggs reported that he is now a certified ethics trainer with the State of Louisiana.
- 8.3. Mr. Stiggs reported that he recently debrief former ethics trainer Toni Hacket and received materials to transition into the position.
- 8.4. Mr. Stiggs reported that he will do ethics training for the board in December.
- 8.5. Ms. Calderon suggested that an “Ethics Training Committee” be appointed.

9. *OIPM Search Committee Report*

- 9.1. Mr. Sanders reported that the committee had an organizational meeting.
- 9.2. Mr. Sanders would report next month on the brochure and publications that the committee would use to reach out for candidates.

10. *Suggested Topics for Next Board Meeting Agenda:* None received from public or board members.

11. *Adjournment.*

- 11.1. A motion was made to adjourn the board meeting.
- 11.2. The motion was seconded.
- 11.3. The board unanimously voted to adjourn. The meeting was adjourned at 5:10 p.m.

* END *

**Monthly Report of
OIG**

MONTHLY REPORT

SEPTEMBER 2021



OIG

NEW ORLEANS
OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL

EDWARD MICHEL, CIG
INTERIM INSPECTOR GENERAL

ADMINISTRATION DIVISION



1,791

Number of registered Twitter followers

ADMINISTRATION

The Office of Inspector General (OIG) Administration Division finalized and issued the professional credentials to all 14 OIG staff at the OIG Swearing-in Ceremony on Wednesday, September 29, 2021.

The Office Manager is also responsible for the following ongoing tasks:

- Reviewing applications for the Criminal Investigator, Evaluator, and Forensic Auditor 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
- Finalizing the OIG's 2022 Budget and 2021 Year-end purchases

INFORMATION SECURITY

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

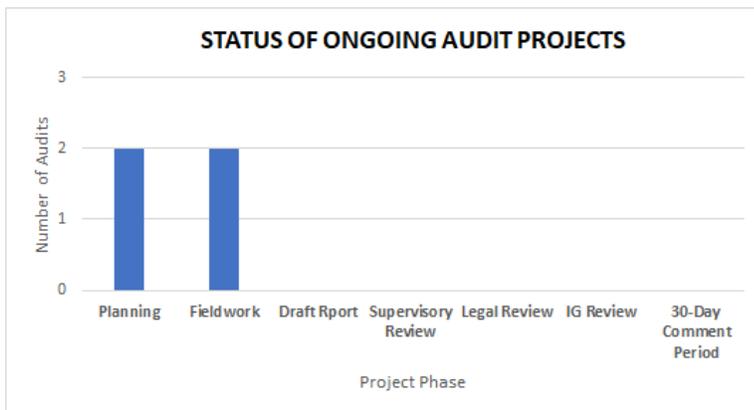
- Technical Support
- Hardware and Software Updates
- Communication and Coordination
- Consultation for IT Purchases

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	Fieldwork	12/31/2021
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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	Fieldwork	12/31/2021
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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	Planning	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	Planning	Ongoing
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Summary of Objectives: To determine if City employees performed on-site inspections at various locations.

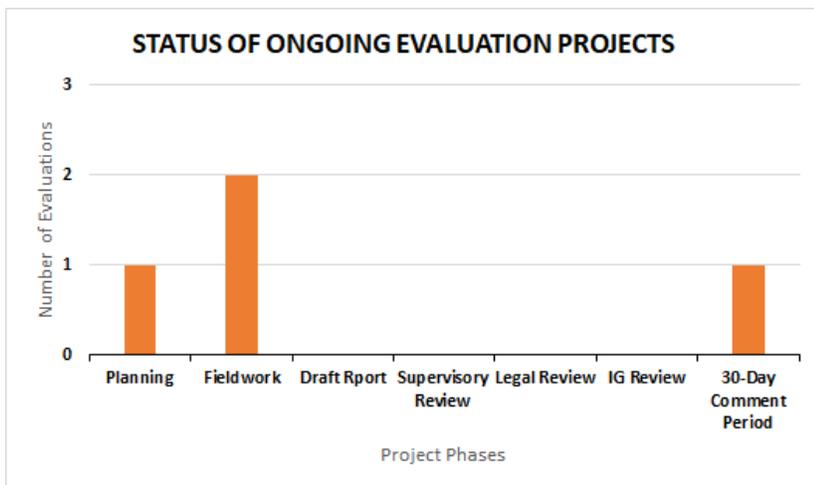
Footnotes:

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 four projects in process:

- Firefighters' Pension Fund Governance
- Competitive Bidding & Selection Processes
- Job Order Contracts
- 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.

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

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	Fieldwork	12/31/2021
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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.

Job Order Contracts (JOC)	30-Day Comment Period	10/31/2021
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Summary of Objectives: To determine if the department was utilizing the JOC process efficiently and effectively, according to city policies and state laws as well as implementing adequate internal and external controls in place to safeguard the procurement process.

Competitive Bidding and Selection Process	Fieldwork	11/30/2021
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Summary of Objectives: To determine if the City's procurement practices encourage sufficient competition among potential contractors.

NOLA 311 Potholes	Planning	12/31/2021
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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.

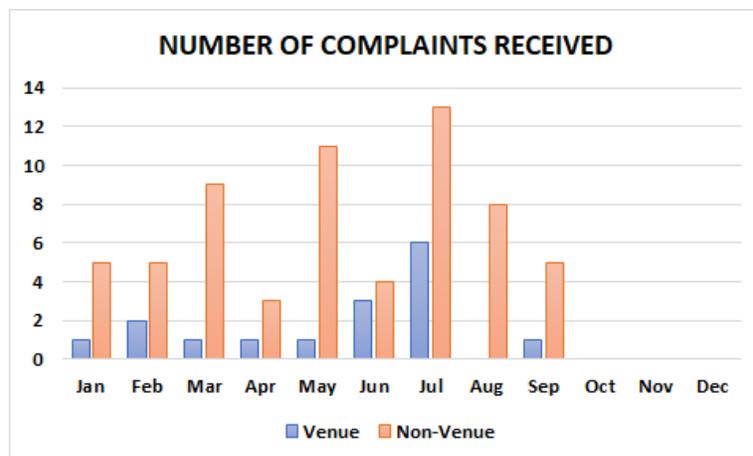
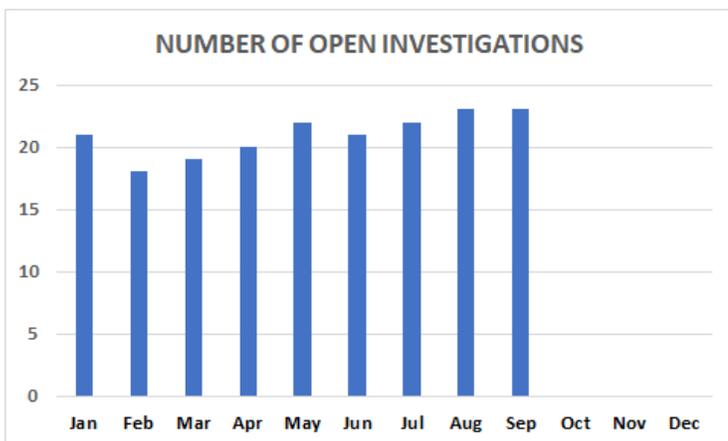
INVESTIGATIONS DIVISION

ADMINISTRATIVE INVESTIGATIONS (SEPTEMBER HIGHLIGHTS)

Issued another 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. This is the fourth letter we have issued to the Assessor's Office concerning this issue. The total number of residential properties submitted for 2021 is 12. Assessor's Office acknowledged receipt of the letter.

CRIMINAL INVESTIGATIONS (SEPTEMBER HIGHLIGHTS)

Issued a Report of Investigation (ROI) concerning Orleans Parish Communications District Operations Manager Wendy Ervin having been given access to the Louisiana Law Enforcement Telecommunications System and the National Crime Information Center despite being a convicted felon.



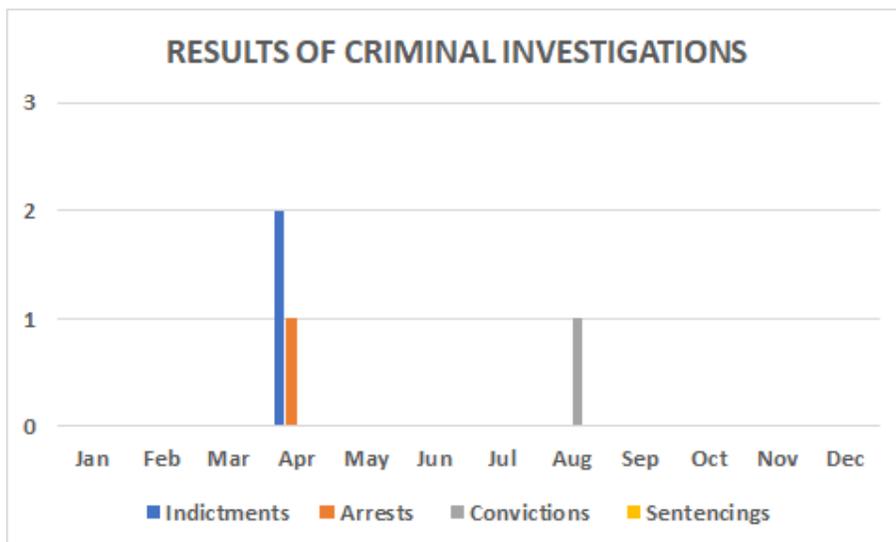
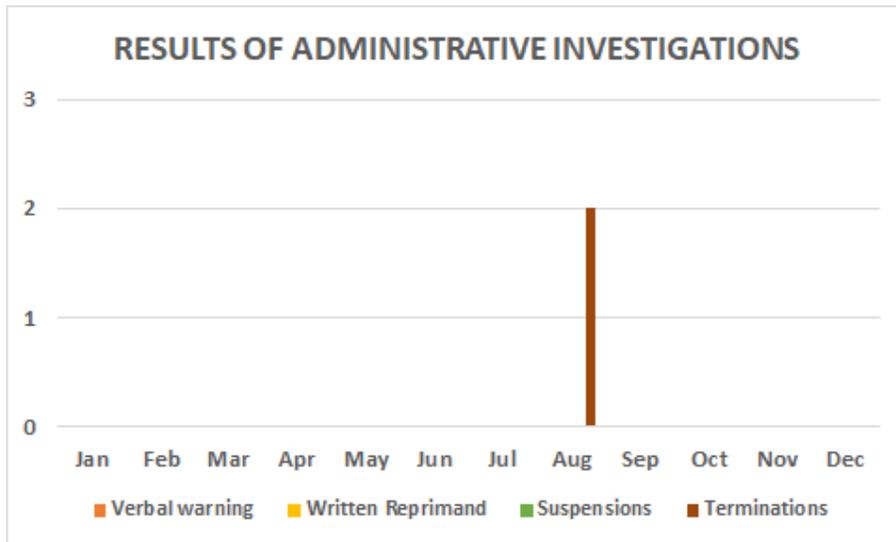
Venue: Matters that the OIG has the jurisdiction to investigate

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

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.



In August 2021, one Safety and Permits employee, Brian Medus was convicted.

2021 BUDGET

Funding:	\$3,484,529
Expenditures:	Amount
Personnel	\$2,149,658
Operating	\$876,316
Total Expenditures	\$3,025,974
Fund Balance	\$458,555

OIG ON SOCIAL MEDIA



New Orleans OIG
@NOLAOIG



It was a pleasure to attend the Metropolitan Crime Commission Executive Board Meeting and discuss OIG initiatives for Jefferson and Orleans Parish.



New Orleans OIG @NOLAOIG · 1m



OIG releases an investigative report concerning the use of the National Crime Investigations Center by the Orleans Parish Communications District. The report can be located at



ROI - OPCD NCIC User Access
Orleans Parish Communications District Operations Manager Wendy Ervin was given access to the ...
nolaoig.gov

OIG ON SOCIAL MEDIA



New Orleans OIG @NOLAOIG · Sep 28



The OIG 2022 Work Plan can be located here : nolaoig.gov

The screenshot shows the cover page of the 'Office of Inspector General 2022 Annual Work Plan' dated September 28, 2021. The header includes the OIG logo and the text 'NEW ORLEANS OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL' and 'IN BRIEF'. The main title is 'Office of Inspector General 2022 Annual Work Plan' and the date is 'September 28, 2021'. The content is divided into two sections: 'Purpose of This Report' and 'Highlights from the OIG's 2022 Annual Work Plan'. The 'Purpose of This Report' section states that the OIG completed its annual risk-based audit and evaluation work plan for the period of September 1, 2021 through August 31, 2022. The 'Highlights from the OIG's 2022 Annual Work Plan' section mentions that the OIG has a number of audits and evaluations underway, including the Department of Finance, the Department of Property Management, the Department of Public Works, the New Orleans Fire Department, and the Sewerage and Water Board. It also notes that the OIG will begin projects in other areas which include, but are not limited to, the following:



New Orleans OIG
@NOLAOIG



The New Orleans Office of Inspector General released the Monthly Report for August 2021. The link to the report is provided here.



OIG Monthly Report - August 2021

The Office of Inspector General reports its monthly activities and progress to the Ethics Review Board. The attached report...
nolaoig.gov

OIG ON SOCIAL MEDIA



New Orleans OIG
@NOLAOIG



Protect yourself against construction fraud after a natural disaster.

Verify whether a contractor is licensed in Louisiana before you make a down payment or sign a contract.

Download the free “La Contractor” mobile app by visiting the LSLBC website at lacontractor.org.



Louisiana State Licensing Board for Contractors
lsbc.louisiana.gov



New Orleans OIG
@NOLAOIG



If you have been a victim of hurricane-related fraud, contact the National Center for Disaster Fraud (NCDF) at 1-866-720-5721 or email it to disaster@leo.gov. Report suspicious email solicitations or fraudulent websites to the Crime Complaint Center at ic3.gov.

8:08 AM · Sep 14, 2021 · Twitter Web App

OIG ON SOCIAL MEDIA

OIG Swearing-In Ceremony Highlights Renewed Commitment and Oath of Office

Ethics Review Board Chair Elizabeth Livingston de Calderon administered the Oath of Office on Wednesday, September 29, 2021 at Gallier Hall to formally memorialize OIG's renewed commitment to preventing fraud, waste, and abuse.



OIG COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT



NEW ORLEANS OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL ANNOUNCES THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE INSPECTOR GENERAL CITIZENS ACADEMY

Our Citizens Academy program is an engaging four-week program that gives business, religious, civic, and community leaders an inside look at the Office of Inspector General (OIG). Classes will meet in the evenings at the New Orleans Office of Inspector General Office at the Federal Reserve Bank in New Orleans.

The mission of the OIG Citizens Academy is to foster a greater understanding of the role and mission of the OIG in the community through discussion and education. Upon completion, attendees will have a greater understanding of how the OIG assesses and mitigates fraud, waste, abuse and public corruption through audits, evaluations and investigations. Upon completion of the Academy, attendees will have a firm understanding of the root causes of fraud, waste, abuse and public corruption, as well as the proper protocols for reporting fraudulent behavior. Candidates are nominated by New Orleans City Employees, the Ethics Review Board, former Citizens Academy graduates, and community leaders. Participants are selected by the Inspector General. Please see the below application for the New Orleans OIG Citizens Academy.

**Monthly Report of
OIPM**

THE OFFICE OF THE INDEPENDENT POLICE MONITOR



MONTHLY REPORT

SEPTEMBER 2021



Community Letter

Dear New Orleans Community,

From Hurricane Ida to mass power outages to trash issues and everything in between, September was a surreal month for our community. For many of us, we started the month in evacuation or taking shelter from Hurricane Ida. We had to wait days for electricity to be restored and the businesses to become operational again. At night, we made it home by curfew and during the day, we may have been waiting in lines for gas or food. Through it all, the Office of the Independent Police Monitor was open, engaging with the public, and on the ground monitoring the policing actions taken by the NOPD. Now that the dust has settled, our office is reviewing and assessing how the NOPD responded to the unprecedented challenges faced during Hurricane Ida.

The OIPM is in the process finalizing our Hurricane Ida Oversight Report analyzing the NOPD's response to determine their compliance with their hurricane plan, city mandates and policies, and local, state, and federal law. The OIPM sought community feedback about the interactions the public had with the police during the hurricane and the subsequent response. Over the last month, OIPM worked with NOPD leadership to compile relevant data regarding use of force, misconduct, community engagement, arrests and summons issued, and policing tactics and strategies designed to ensure public safety during the power outages following the storm. The OIPM looks forward to releasing this report in this fall and applying the lessons learned and recommendations into future hurricane seasons.

During September, the OIPM met with our partners, the Innocence Project New Orleans (IPNO) to discuss how to collaborate on the public facing database. This collaboration will ensure that the public is able to access necessary information regarding officer misconduct, use of force, awards, commendations, and much more. The OIPM looks forward to continuing this work with both IPNO and City Council to further the development of vital resource.

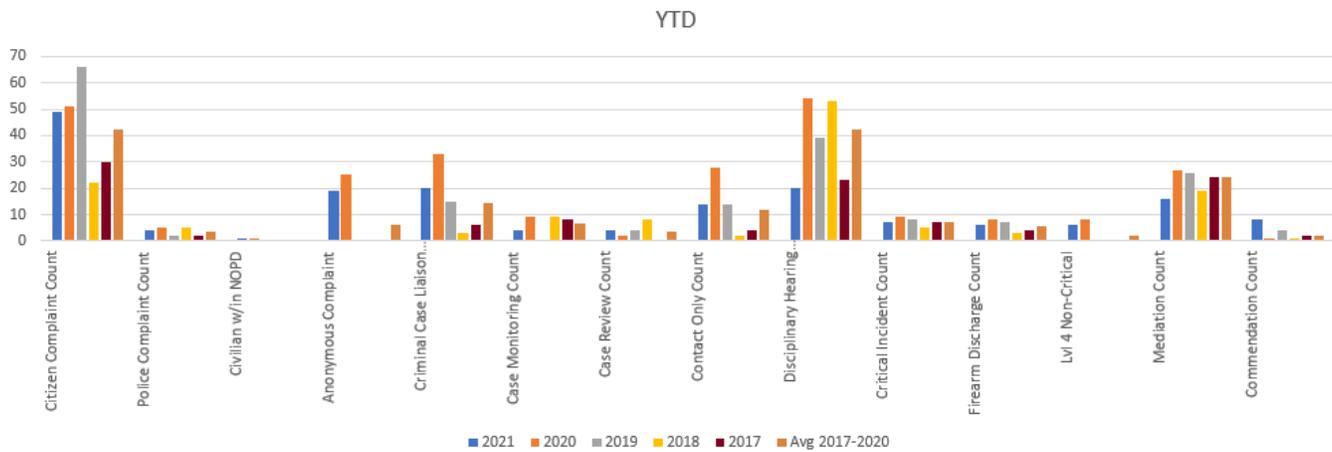
OIPM executed on another goal this month to expand our community impact and reach through Remote Intake Sites. OIPM leadership met with the leadership team at the Public Integrity Bureau to discuss potential intake sites that work with our Vietnamese and Spanish speaking populations in New Orleans and our transgender community. Our goal is to complete all training and intake materials by the end of October and start training sites this winter.

The OIPM continued to work with our contractors and partners in data, Thoughtworks and Public Data Works, to develop the second phase of the OIPM dashboard regarding misconduct and complaint intake. The OIPM dashboard already presents information regarding the number of complaints received, intake methods, topics, and complainant types on our website, but we intend to keep building this dashboard so we can share more relevant misconduct information with the community. The second phase of the OIPM dashboard will include a heatmap that tracks where misconduct incidents are occurring in the city and will overlay district boundary lines. The OIPM looks forward to releasing this new feature on the dashboard site: <https://complaints.nolaipm.gov/data>. Please check out the dashboard now to learn more about our complaint intake for the year.

Finally, the OIPM is currently working with community organizations to plan a day of remembrance and reflection to mark the National Day Against Police Brutality. In the coming weeks, we will share out more about this community event. We look forward to seeing you there.

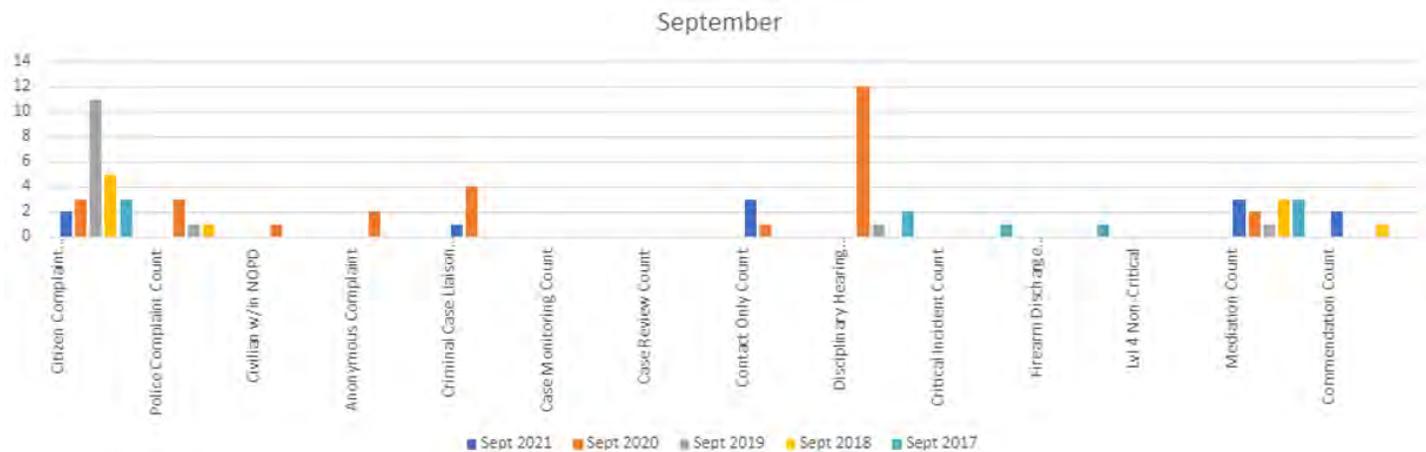


Year to Date Overview



	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017	Avg 2017-2020
Citizen Complaint Count	49	51	66	22	30	42.25
Police Complaint Count	4	5	2	5	2	3.50
Civilian w/in NOPD*	1	1	0	0	0	0.25
Anonymous Complaint*	19	25	0	0	0	6.25
Criminal Case Liaison Count	20	33	15	3	6	14.25
Case Monitoring Count	4	9	0	9	8	6.50
Case Review Count	4	2	4	8	0	3.50
Contact Only Count	17	28	14	2	4	12.00
Disciplinary Hearing Count	20	54	39	53	23	42.25
Critical Incident Count	7	9	8	5	7	7.25
Firearm Discharge Count	6	8	7	3	4	5.50
Lvl 4 Non-Critical*	6	8	0	0	0	2
Mediation Count	16	27	26	19	24	24.00
Commendation Count	8	1	4	1	2	2.00
Grand Total	181	261	185	130	110	141.67

September Overview



	Sep-21	Sep-20	Sep-19	Sep-18	Sep-17	Avg 2017-2020
Citizen Complaint Count	2	3	11	5	3	5.50
Police Complaint Count	0	3	1	1	0	1.25
Civilian w/in NOPD*	0	1	-	-	-	1.00
Anonymous Complaint*	0	2	-	-	-	2.00
Criminal Case Liaison Count	1	4	0	-	-	2.00
Case Monitoring Count	0	0	0	0	0	0.00
Case Review Count	0	0	0	0	0	0.00
Contact Only Count	3	1	0	0	0	0.25
Disciplinary Hearing Count	0	12	1	0	2	3.75
Critical Incident Count	0	0	0	0	1	0.25
Firearm Discharge Count	0	0	0	0	1	0.25
Lvl 4 Non-Critical*	0	0	-	-	-	0.00
Mediation Count	3	2	1	3	3	2.25
Commendation Count	2	0	0	1	0	0.25
Grand Total	26	21	26	12	14	18.25

September Overview

Citizen Complaints	
CC2021-0084	The complainant alleges that the NOPD is extorting and/or committing fraud against insurance companies and victims of auto theft by refusing to release the information about recovered cars, specifically the whereabouts, unless a police report is paid for in the amount of \$26.
CC2021-0085	The complainant alleges that an NOPD investigator/detective conducted an inappropriate interview with his child.
Citizen Complaints Count: 2	

Criminal Liaison	
CL2021-0018	OIPM assisted an individual in speaking to the homicide detective assigned to his son's case.
Criminal Liaison Count: 1	

Commendations	
PC2021-0007	Two NOPD officers were recognized for their assistance providing ice and helping people in the community where they are detailed during the storm.
PC2021-0008	An NOPD officer recognized for his response to a citizen's accident involving a drunk driver and apprehending the subject before he fled the scene with a friend.
Commendations: 2	

Mediation	
Mediation cases are confidential.	
Mediations Held: 3	

Use of Force Review Board Cases Heard	
FTN2021-0153	An officer allegedly placed his knee near a subject's neck during a takedown.
FTN2021-0259	An officer allegedly struck an individual in his head when he would not release his bite.
FTN2021-0159	An officer allegedly tased a handcuffed individual after the individual fled.
FTN2021-0141	An officer allegedly pursued a wanted vehicle down the wrong way of a one-way street on two occasions.
Use of Force Review Board Cases Heard: 4	

Contact Only	
CO2021-0015	A member of the public contacted OIPM with their concerns regarding interactions with Orleans Parish Sheriff's Office.
CO2021-0016	A member of the public contacted OIPM for assistance regarding an interaction in East Baton Rouge.
CO2021-0017	A member of the public contacted OIPM about an encounter involving Jefferson Parish Sheriff's Office.
Contact Only Count: 3	

Complaints

The OIPM serves as an alternative site for civilians and police officers alike to file complaints of misconduct against the NOPD. These complaints and allegations are compiled into referrals by the OIPM and provided to the Public Integrity Bureau (PIB) for them to investigate. The OIPM monitors and reviews the classification and investigation conducted by PIB.

Once the OIPM receives a complaint, the OIPM prepares the complainant's account into a narrative. The OIPM strives to accurately capture the words, emotions, goals and narrative shared by the complainant and selects the policy, practice, or rule that each allegation of behavior / incident could have violated if determined to be true. As part of the letter preparation process, OIPM personnel reviews information in NOPD systems regarding the interaction complained of, including body worn camera video, electronic police reports (EPR) and field interview cards (FIC). The OIPM may include information obtained from NOPD information systems in the complaint referral to PIB to ensure that PIB can fully investigate the complainant's concerns.

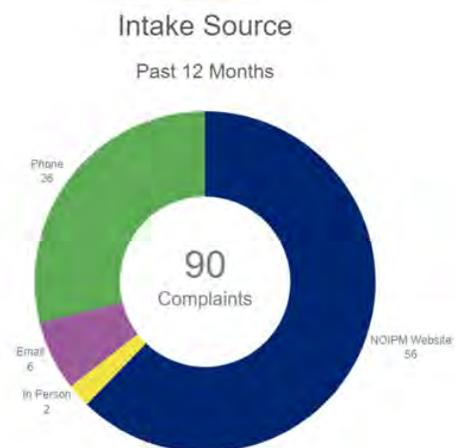
The OIPM provides a complaint process that is independent, impartial, transparent, fact-based, timely, and communicates in an understandable manner to all those involved. The OIPM maintains that misconduct investigation must be comprehensive, and the complaint process must be accessible, fair, thorough, and transparent.

2 CIVILIAN COMPLAINTS

0 ANONYMOUS COMPLAINTS

0 POLICE INITIATED COMPLAINTS

0 CIVILIANS WITHIN NOPD INITIATED COMPLAINTS



Community-Police Mediation

Mediation is an alternative to the traditional process of resolving complaints of police officer misconduct. Mediation is a process facilitated by two professionally-trained community mediators to create mutual understanding and allow the civilian and officer to be fully heard and understood in a non-judgmental way.

I liked the chance to talk and that the mediators were good listeners. The process turned out good.” - Officer Participant

- 6** MEDIATIONS REFERRED
- 3** MEDIATIONS HELD
- 3** MEDIATIONS PENDING
- 3** MEDIATIONS SCHEDULED



“ This was a good opportunity to express my concerns of how things were handled with the officer. I learned not to categorize the entire department because of one officer’s mistake. The officer learned to take time to listen before acting. This program should continue. Please don’t stop!”

-Civilian Participant

Use of Force

The OIPM is required by City Code 2-1121 to monitor the quality and timeliness of NOPD's investigations into use of force and in-custody deaths. If a critical incident occurs, the OIPM is notified and a member of the incident and will report immediately to the scene. The OIPM will stay engaged from the occurrence of the incident, through investigation, and Use of Force Review Board (UFRB) hearings.

The UFRB serves as a quality control mechanism to ensure timely reviews of all serious use of force investigations to determine the appropriateness of the investigative findings, and to quickly appraise use of force incidents from a tactics, training, policy, and agency improvement perspective. The voting members of the UFRB are the Deputy Superintendents of Field Operations Bureau, Public Integrity Bureau, and Investigations and Support Bureau. Other NOPD deputy chiefs serve as non-voting members, and outside groups like OIPM and the Office of the Consent Decree Monitor are present to observe, listen, and participate in discussion.

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CRITICAL INCIDENTS

0

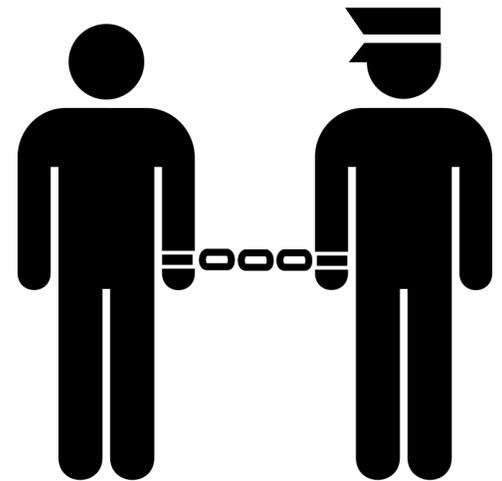
FIREARM DISCHARGE

0

LEVEL 4 NON-CRITICAL INCIDENT

4

CASES HEARD AT USE OF FORCE REVIEW BOARD



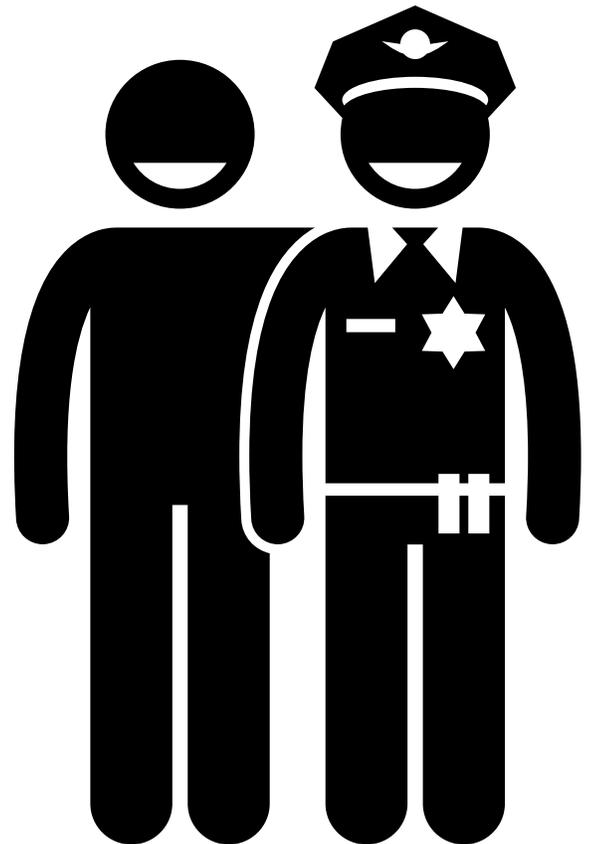
OIPM would like to note an officer involved shooting occurred on September 1, 2021. While on duty, an NOPD officer suffered a gunshot to the head while driving down the interstate. The officer did not use force.

Commendations

Commendations are accounts of positive policing. The commendation may include a positive interaction that occurred during a call to service or recognition to an officer who participated in a community event or an officer that was particularly helpful or went above and beyond. The commendation request is an opportunity to recognize this positive action and the affect it had on the individual or the community. Anyone can file a commendation and a commendation can be filed an anonymously. The commendation will go into an officer's file.

We at the OIPM want to ensure such examples of positive policing are captured and marked by the community and we provide the NOPD with examples of excellent policing when it occurs.

2 COMMENDATIONS



Community Outreach

2

COMMUNITY OUTREACH EVENTS

OIPM leads and participates in community outreach to inform the public of our services, to increase public engagement with policing, raise awareness of local or relevant police practice, and monitor how the NOPD interacts with our community.

**PASSED OUT BABY DIAPERS AND HANDED OUT HOT PLATES
AFTER HURRICANE IDA AT MCDONOGH 35 SENIOR HIGH
SCHOOL ON SEPTEMBER 8TH AND 9TH**



Budget

OIPM Budget Description	Amount
Personnel	\$688,744.00
Operating	\$324,937.00
2021 Total OIPM Budget	\$1,013,681.00

2021 Total OIPM Budget	\$1,013,681.00
Amounts Spent to Date:	(\$783,586.00)
Projected Amounts to be Spent the Rest of the Year:	(\$849,333.34)
Projected Unexpended Funds	\$164,347.66

2021 Goal Progress

To ensure accountability and transparency with the ERB and the community, the OIPM will report out highlights and what progress was made each month to complete the goals listed in the Six Month Action Plan and the recommendations adopted from the QARAC.

These benchmarks and goals were achieved in September, 2021:

Completed first draft of the OIPM Hurricane Ida Police Oversight Report.

- Submitted informational requests to NOPD for data and policy.

Started case review of high profile investigation regarding the Eighth (8th) District Task Force Officers.

Completed the OIPM Interagency and Out of Jurisdiction Law Enforcement and Oversight Policy and disseminated it to the OIPM staff and contractors.

Completed a draft Retention Schedule and submitted it to the State Archives and Records Department of the Louisiana Secretary of State for approval.

Publicized Opportunities for Commendations (QARAC Recommendation)

- OIPM continued to publicize opportunities for commendations on social media. OIPM received more commendations from the public.

Design new OIPM Website that is easier for the public to navigate (QARAC Recommendation)

- OIPM continued working with the contractor Orshay Marketing on redesigning the OIPM website and branding including providing sample logos and website design ideas and requests.

OIPM met with the Captain of the Public Integrity Bureau to discuss proposed Remote Intake Site locations and the Remote Intake Site materials and manual created by OIPM.

- Prepared a Memorandum of Understanding for Remote Intake Sites.
- Started reaching out to potential Remote Intake Sites organizations to invite organizations to participate in pilot program.
- Started creating the training materials.

Worked with contractors, Public Data Works and Thoughtworks, to develop the second phase of the complaint data dashboard: <http://complaints.nolaipm.gov/data>.

- In the process of designing a misconduct "heat map" with district boundary overlays.

Met with Innocence Project New Orleans to discuss possible collaboration on the Public Facing Database.

Social Media Highlights

Below are some of the social media posts produced by OIPM over the last month. Some of these posts were re-shared by partners. The OIPM also continued contributing an ongoing "story" on Instagram with relevant Hurricane Ida information started in August and continued into September.



nolaipm
McDonogh35 Sr High School 4000 Cadillac St

nolaipm Some of our families are still without power or meals after Hurricane Ida. Tonight, Stella Cziment, Acting Independent Police Monitor, volunteered at McDonogh 35 alongside some local leaders and friendly faces. We provided hot plates, snack packs, and diapers to the community. Thanks, @voteolin, for organizing this opportunity! 🍌🍌🍌
#hurricaneida #hurricanerecovery #neworleans #nolaipm #community

View Insights

Liked by ursula.b.price and 21 others
1 DAY AGO

Add a comment...

Office of the Independent Police Monitor
www.nolaipm.gov | 504.309.9799

It is back to school time! The OIPM wants to know about students and the NOPD.

Tell us about your experiences with school resource officers or police on campus.

nolaipm
New Orleans, Louisiana

nolaipm There's been a couple starts and stops this 2021-2022 school year in New Orleans, but many of our scholars are now back in class. The OIPM wants to know about police interactions with students, teachers, school staff, and families. Tell us about your experiences. You can comment below, message us, or send an email to: policemonitor@nolaipm.gov. #backtoschool #schoolresourceofficer #nopd #neworleans #policeoversight #nolaipm #students #schoolsandpolice

View Insights

4 likes
1 DAYS AGO

Add a comment...



nolaipm
New Orleans, Louisiana

nolaipm Curious how complaints are submitted to OIPM? These are the methods used so far in 2021 to submit complaints to OIPM that resulted in a referral letter being sent to the Public Integrity Bureau for investigation. We're here to serve you - so reach out about your experiences! Also, OIPM wants to thank @thoughtworks for your partnership in developing this data with us! #policeoversight #nolaipm #data #misconduct #accountability #neworleans

View Insights

Liked by npap_nlg and 7 others
1 DAYS AGO

Add a comment...

Office of the Independent Police Monitor
www.nolaipm.gov | 504.309.9799

What is qualified immunity?

In the U.S. legal system, qualified immunity is a legal principle that grants governmental officials, like police officers, protection from civil liability while performing discretionary functions.

For officers this means when they are performing their required role and making necessary decisions - like who to arrest or investigate - they are protected from civil liability.

nolaipm
New Orleans, Louisiana

nolaipm This week there was national news about federal police reform: the George Floyd Justice in Policing Act of 2020, and debate over qualified immunity. Swipe through to learn more about qualified immunity as a legal concept and how it influences policing in our country. As a reminder, individual liability only means that the officer can be held personally liable. It does not impact the ability for the department to be held accountable legally for the actions of the officer or for the officer to be internally disciplined or terminated.

View Insights

Liked by npap_nlg and 12 others
1 DAYS AGO

Add a comment...

Office of the Independent Police Monitor
www.nolaipm.gov | 504.309.9799

Shout Out!

What do you think is the most important trait for an officer to have?

Comment below and tell us!

nolaipm
New Orleans, Louisiana

nolaipm Shout out! Let the OIPM know what you think the most important trait is for an officer. The NOPD is currently making promotion decisions and always recruiting for new officers in the community. Let us know what traits matter to you! #policeoversight #nolaipm #neworleans #nopd #recruitment #community #feedback #whatmatters toyou

chadtaylor7001 De-escalation...

View Insights

Liked by npap_nlg and 13 others
1 DAYS AGO

Add a comment...



nolaipm
NOPD First District

nolaipm Today, the Acting Independent Police Monitor, Stella Cziment, met with Captain Richardson of the Public Integrity Bureau at the NOPD 1st District Station to receive a briefing and discuss NOPD's post-Hurricane response plan. #hurricaneida #nolaipm #hurricanerecovery #neworleans

View Insights

Liked by chiefdefendmola and 12 others
7 DAYS AGO

Add a comment...

**Monthly Report of
Ethics Trainer**

City of New Orleans Ethics Review Board

Training Division



ERB
ETHICS REVIEW BOARD

Monthly Report
September 2021

City of New Orleans Employees Annual State Ethics Training

City of New Orleans Employees have an annual deadline of December 31st to meet their yearly ethics training requirement.

After a completion rate inquiry across twelve departments, it was determined that, as of Sept. 29, 79% - 98% of those employees had already satisfied their education requirements for the year.



Live training sessions, for select departments, is ongoing.

The next session is:

Tuesday, November 9, 2021
Gernon Brown Rec Center
12:00 PM - 1:00 PM

Dec
31

Partnerships and Looking Ahead

During debriefing discussions with Toni Hackett of Hackett Group, and Erich Caulfield of Caulfield Consulting, both offered to be information resources during the training transition.

Both Hackett and Caulfield will be facilitating introduction calls between ERB Trainer and the points of contacts within the Boards, Commissions, and City Departments that were serviced with ethics training by The Hackett Group.

LOOKING AHEAD

- **Live Training**
 - Beginning 2021, ERB Trainer will conduct live training sessions within city departments that have need and CAO (Chief Administrative Office) Employee Relations division will retain the process of data collection and reporting.
- **Increasing ERB Website Interactivity**
 - General Ethics training guide for public use and non-credit training/information sessions.
 - Downloadable FAQ's and Fact Sheets
- **Increasing Support for Ethics Liaisons**
 - Establishing twice yearly dates for development meetings.
 - Uncovering training challenges.
 - Ensuring full knowledge of current areas of focus (i.e., Whistleblower Protections)
 - Collaborating on creation and use of learning aids and post-session material to increase knowledge retention.