

Speaker: Inspector General, Ed Quatrevaux

Goal: to tell you what we do (and meet people).

Two missions: #1 deter and prevent fraud waste and abuse. Mission #2 promotes efficiency.

OIG is independent, created by the City Council. Does not report to the Mayor or the City Council, but the city-review board (citizens – 7 year term).

Why we are visiting:

- 1) Share what we're doing.
- 2) Model board manual.

New Orleans – 6,500 employees. City Hall runs 1/2. Operational Budget of the city is 1Billion, 600,000,000 (taxes, fines, fees). The rest is grants from the state and federal budget.

Since 2009 – 122 repots published.

Contact: OIG hotline
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“We want to know if there are city employees who try to shake you down”

“The longer the fraud, the greater the rate of fraud”

“We often get the question, how do we choose our projects. Our experience has been . . . every part of city government, we've discovered fraud. When it comes to combating fraud, in terms of selecting things. . . it's simple, you go where the money is - that's where the thieves go.

Cultural change posture . . . we go somewhere. . . bust em' . . . stay there until they are free of corruption.

A few recent highlights:

- Currently at S&WB – 1/3 of the payroll is overtime. 1/7 employees

Has a take-home-car.

- Funding of Traffic Court – was unconstitutional.
- Utilities Regulation (city council) - using high priced consultants to do menial jobs (making copies).
- NOPD funding – no correlation to the # of police and the police budget over the years. No relation to the level of crime or number of arrests. “Not good”.
- Parking meter maids.

“We issued a few reports on the NOPD – first about rape and deployment. NOPD rejected all recommendations made in NOPD staffing and deployment. Then a few weeks later, the Police Chief was fired. Supt. Harrison has now implemented most of them. “We’ve seen real improvement”

21% of the NOPD was on patrol (60% is the goal). “We spend a fortune on these guys to carry a gun.. Not repair IT”. 5 cops were on public records “do you really need a gun to handle public records?? Supt. Harrison understands.

“In some instances, we help the administrators understand what is happening in THEIR organization.”

The Aviation Board currently pays two OIG agents to be at the Airport. So they are currently reviewing everything. 25\$ million dollars a year in savings. 2011 “Pit of Corruption” - - - today, cleaned up.

Less Corruption has meant lower costs for the airlines to land here in New Orleans. Lower prices means more flights are available.

2016 reports to date:

S&WB fee collections – 47% accounts are delinquent.

Report on Law Department Funding

Public letter on Law Department’s procurement of outside legal counsel

Annual report on Hollywood

Looking Forward:

- NOPD crime stats (esp. sex crimes division)
- S&WB – “easily the most dysfunctional organization . . . never seen anything like it”. “It is horrible”.
- 311 systems.
- Fuel dispensing controls.
- Audubon financial audits.
- Fleet management – the city has 2,000 cars – no one is managing it.

Questions for the inspector general:

1. Is this something that goes back to the first mayor of New Orleans? When was the corruption not in place?

- - - Louis 14th didn't trust anyone. Called the most junior general in the French army. Created the first "Inspector General" – report to Louis 14th only. Just make sure everything is good, investigate. The idea came to America with the Revolution. OIG system has been in place since then. It is especially critical for the military. Navy saw the light in 1942. Air Force, 1948. 1973 Soybean scandal – caused the dept. of agriculture to have an I.G. 1978 Inspector General Act – caused every government bureau to have and IG. 1988 – IG applied all over the federal government.

2. Can I float something by you? "I've been here 30 years . . . over the past year and a half there are a lot of changes. . . I've noted that some of the changes seem unlawful to me. Seems to me that HDLC and the ARC are largely responsible for these changes – both of these city agencies are staffed by city employees and appointed board members. I asked a board member "why is this happening? How are these things getting passed" . . . they said, "The process has been corrupted". At the staff level, the process for getting these projects pushed through that it is so predictable.

People write things to us all the time. Bring it to our office.

3. Thank you for your work. It's a breath of fresh air. Seems like oversight is critical. Is there any realistic fear that the OIG could be curtailed or stopped?

That's exactly right. It's critical. Funding is guaranteed.

Let me give you an example of where you are missing something. . There are many minor accidents that get investigated – "do you need an ambulance?" then this is checked off by the investigating officer – checking off "no injury / yes injury" – at some level the NOPD needs to be told not to check off "no injury because there was no ambulance".

4. Do you have any jurisdiction to oversee the Port of New Orleans?

No. That's a state agency. There is a state inspector general.

5. Interested to learn the rule of 60 with the NOPD – Where are all the other police officers? What do they do?

They just promoted 17 guys to Sargent – so we lost more cops on the street. We probably have twice as many SGTs. As we need. Compared to nationally –

how many officers are overseen by a SGT – nationally it's around 8. Here its 3.
We have too many administrators.

6. Would you agree that the 5th district is largest? Size?

No: 7th district.

We were shown a roster of 77 officers – split by 3 shifts. Is that adequate?

If you want 100 cops on the street all the time? You need 161 cops on the payroll all the time.

“The NOPD record keeping is terrible”

7. We recently had an experience with the assessors office – the value of the land went up, but the value of the homes went down . . . commercial property – land assessment tripled – others didn't. Seems like you have an idea of where to look for corruption.. . is the assessors office a good ship?

When we went from 7 to 1 . . . my office has no jurisdiction over the assessor. Time will heal that. . As they improve. There is no state-record of homestead exemptions – a lot of out of town people with homesteads.

8. Any looking into the electoral districts (gerrymandering)?

I believe that is a state function. Electoral districts are a state function.

9. Why would the police department under-report sex crimes? Any secondary game?

Avoidance of work. They don't like writing reports. The NOPD has horrible morale. The people there are Union – you punch in and punch out. Make as much money and do as little work as possible . . . it's changing . . .

10. Is NORD under your jurisdiction?

We haven't looked yet.

Thank you.

Short Term Rentals:

Brian Lockett speaking:

The City planning commission is working on this – and they will write it up to the city council. Then the voting will occur.

This is moving forward – now is the time to write to your council member and the city planning commission. Tell them how you feel!

½ a double is the same as renting an extra room – it is not considered a whole house.

Whole house rentals – there may be a density limit for 1 or 2 per block face.

You can buy the permit (1,000\$ a year) and block others from doing that.

Q: Who's gonna enforce that?

The mayor is pushing it to get done so they can have the tax money for 2017.

C: We should write the mayor as well!

Julie Speaking:

Things have not gone well with the Hostel on Chartres / Mazant. Bringing you up to speed on what is happening, there is a committee looking at the provisos that Nadine Ramsey mentioned – trying to make them more effective. One is crowd capacity – trying to get some teeth – like getting the Fire Marshall to surprise visit. Noise monitoring by a 3rd party – that anyone can see online. (Supposed to be accessible by the police). If these suggestions are not well received, they may consider legal action. They should be public.

We can follow the near neighbor's lead. And support them.

Asking people to donate to the legal fund. Decision should be reached soon because 30 days.

Mark Gonzalez – a brief comment about the train (with handout).

Noise from the railroad – apparently July 5th is the end of open comment for federal railway administration comment period for horns at crossing.

Press street is not a quiet zone – where there is no horn blowing unless it's an accident. In order to get that done, these comments are not the way to

accomplish that – that is done through public officials. Making the application to make this a quiet zone.

Maybe we ought to organize to turn these into quiet zones.

Assessor's Office – land value went up 2.5 times and the improvement value was reduced so the overall assessment is the same.

20\$ a square foot – whether or not there is a house. Unless it is a large parcel, economies of scale . . . Then they are cheaper. So you have people with a whole block paying not much more than people paying for a small area.