

### SIX MONTH STATUS REPORT

April 1, 2024 - September 30, 2024

John A. Carey, Inspector General

### **OIG MISSION**



- Our mission is to promote integrity, efficiency, and effectiveness in government in order to enhance public trust in government.
- To provide independent and objective insight, oversight, and foresight through audits, investigations, contract oversight, reviews, and outreach activities.

"Enhancing Public Trust in Government"

### OIG MISSION - in other words



### To provide independent and objective oversight in government to:

Prevent, detect, and investigate fraud, waste, and abuse.



Root out the bad

Promote economy, efficiency, effectiveness, and integrity.

Promote the good

MAKING GOOD GOVERNMENT BETTER

### **OUTLINE**



- > PERSONNEL/STAFF HIGHLIGHTS
- > OIG ACTIVITIES (Apr 1, 2024 Sep 30, 2024)
- > BUDGET AND STAFFING
- > PLANS, OBJECTIVES, & INITIATIVES
- > SUMMARY OF MAJOR ACCOMPLISHMENTS

### STAFF HIGHLIGHTS



#### **April 1, 2024 – September 30, 2024**

### Shonnelle Brathwaite Certified IDEA Data Analyst



Hank Nagel
Certified Information
Systems Auditor



Kalinthia Dillard
President
Forum Club



Congratulations Kalinthia Dillard General Counsel and Deputy Inspector General at Palm Beach County Office of Inspector General

Community Ten Toes Down Honoree at WEW presents 10.10@10 highlighting leaders who create positive experiences in our community.





April 1, 2024 - September 30, 2024

### Office of Inspector General Activities Related to:

- Intake and Investigations
- Contract Oversight and Evaluations
- > Audit
- > Training and Outreach



April 1, 2024 - September 30, 2024

# Intake and Investigations Highlights



#### **Intake Activities**

Current 6 Months				
121	Complaints of wrongdoing			
21	Intake Activities led to:  - 1 Investigations  - 2 Referrals to OIG Contract Oversight and Evaluations Division  - 1 Referrals to OIG Audit  - 6 Referrals to LEAs or COEs  - 0 Management Inquiries  - 11 Management Referrals			
9	Public Records Requests			

Previous 6 Months				
114	Complaints of wrongdoing			
33	Intake Activities led to:  - 2 Investigations  - 3 Referrals to OIG Contract Oversight and Evaluations Division  - 3 Referrals to OIG Audit  - 10 Referrals to LEAs or COEs  - 0 Management Inquiries  - 14 Management Referrals			
11	Public Records Requests			



**April 1, 2024 – September 30, 2024** 

Investigative Activities	Current 6 Months	Previous 6 Months
On-going Investigations or Investigative Reviews	33	35
Referrals to Law Enforcement or to County or State Commissions on Ethics	12	22
Issued Reports	5	2
Recommendations Made	8	2
Recommendations Accepted	8	2
Questioned Costs	\$21,614.18	\$0
Identified Costs	\$56,770.22	\$29,900.00



Investigative Report 2022-0020 False Information on County Grant Applications – Lake Worth

#### **ALLEGATION:**

A Lake Worth CARES Act Rental Assistance Program applicant submitted four applications with fraudulent loss of employment letters to the County.

#### FINDING: SUPPORTED

- ➤ The applicant received a total of \$19,214.13 in assistance from the County.
- ➤ The applicant falsified documentation about employment status by forging employment letterhead, signatures, and assertion that her employment hours had been reduced or eliminated.

### 仚

Emergency Rental Assistance Program

Identified Costs \$19,214.13

Referred to Law Enforcement

#### **RECOMMENDATION:**

The County seek reimbursement of \$19,214.13



Investigative Report 2022-0022: False Representations on West Palm Beach Rental Assistance Applications

#### **ALLEGATION:**

A West Palm Beach, County Emergency Rental and Utilities Assistance Program applicant submitted three applications with falsified employment separation letters and altered paystubs that caused payments totaling \$11,202.34.



#### **FINDINGS: SUPPORTED**

➤ The applicant submitted falsified paystubs and employment letters to the County in support of rental assistance. Those documents falsely asserted that the applicant lost active employment.

#### **RECOMMENDATION:**

The County seek reimbursement of \$11,202.43

Identified Costs \$11,202.24





Investigative Report 2022-0014: False Information on County - West Palm Beach Rental Assistance
Applications

#### **ALLEGATION:**

A County Rental Assistance Program application contained multiple falsified employment separation letters, landlord statements, and leases. One of these applications resulted in payments to landlord Antonio Silva.

#### **FINDINGS: SUPPORTED**

- ➤ Orlando, Florida resident Antonio Silva defrauded the County of \$5,355 and attempted to obtain \$29,300 in additional fraudulent funds. Mr. Silva posed as the landlord for a property for which he had no connection and then submitted multiple assistance applications.
- > Mr. Silva also received governmental funding in multiple additional areas of the country.

#### **RECOMMENDATION:**

The County seek reimbursement of \$5,355.00

Identified Costs \$5,355.00



Antonio Silva has since been arrested in Orlando for financial crimes of over \$1 million. The State Attorney's Office in Orlando received information from the OIG Investigation for consideration of additional charges.





Investigative Report 2023-0002: False Representations on Lake Worth Rental Assistance Applications

#### **ALLEGATIONS:**

A Lake Worth applicant, assisted by an individual who created falsified employment termination letters, submitted multiple fraudulent Emergency Rental Assistance applications, resulting in losses of \$15,004.39.

#### **FINDINGS: SUPPORTED**

- > The applicant submitted falsified paystubs and employment letters to the County in support of rental assistance. Those documents falsely asserted that the applicant lost active employment. The applicant admitted that the documents were falsified.
- ➤ The person assisting the applicant admitted that he created knowingly falsified documents for the applications.



Identified Costs \$15,004.39



#### **RECOMMENDATION:**

The County seek reimbursement of \$15,004.39



Investigative Report 2023-0009: County Planning, Zoning, and Building (PZB) Overtime Pay

#### **ALLEGATION:**

➤ A County PZB Deputy Building Official and a PZB Manager falsified their employee time records by claiming they worked extra hours.

#### FINDING: SUPPORTED

- ➤ On over 100 occasions the PZB Deputy Building Official, and the PZB Manager on 32 occasions falsified their employee time records by claiming they worked extra hours, resulting in the improper accrual of compensatory time and/or payments.
- ➤ A lack of internal controls, combined with deliberately false submissions, allowed two PZB senior managers to submit multiple inaccurate overtime claims that resulted in the County improperly paying them overtime and/or compensatory time.
  - > RECOMMENDATIONS:
  - > PZB institute/improve appropriate internal so as to minimize the risk of employees improperly reporting leave, overtime, or compensatory time.
  - > The County seek reimbursement of \$5,994.46



Identified Costs \$5,994.46

Questioned Costs \$21,614.18



### Recent Significant Report Published After the Reporting Period



#### Investigative Report 2024-0006: Riviera Beach Failure to Report Water Contamination

#### **ALLEGATION:**

➤ City of Riviera Beach senior Utilities Special District employees failed to comply with required water testing and reporting protocols, and provided inaccurate or misleading reporting of water contamination to the Florida Department of Health (FDOH) and the public.

#### FINDING: SUPPORTED

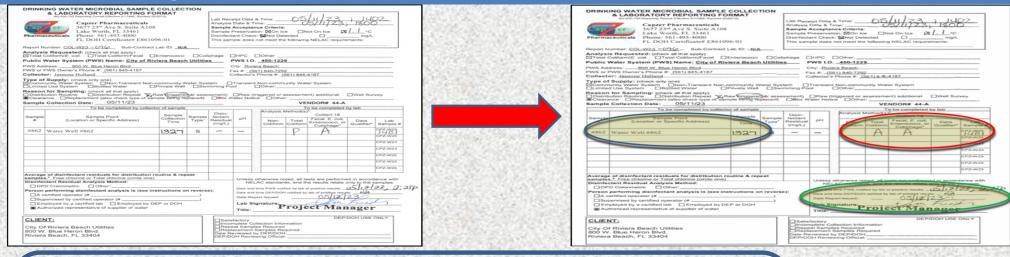
Individuals with oversight responsibilities throughout the Utility District failed to carry out their essential duties, resulting in a lack of reporting, the submission of falsified reports, the downplaying of issues, and potentially putting citizens' health at risk.



On at least 130 occasions between January and September 2023, Utility District staff <u>failed to report</u> or adequately supervise other employees responsible for reporting water testing results to the FDOH. Utility District staff also failed to immediately report "present" E. coli results, and <u>submitted altered or misleading test results to the FDOH</u> for two wells. As a result, wells were improperly reactivated for use as part of the City's drinking water system.



#### Investigative Report 2024-0006: Riviera Beach Failure to Report Water Contamination



#### **RECOMMENDATIONS:**

- ➤ The City Utility District implement internal processes and controls requiring dual acknowledgment of receipt and review of water sample results from laboratories prior to submission to the FDOH.
- > The City Utility District institute regular training requirements for all City Utility District employees relating to the rules and regulations for the operation of the City Utility District.
- ➤ The City Utility District institute a policy requiring the creation of a process for resolving reporting and compliance complaints regarding the City Utility District.
- > The City take appropriate personnel action.





April 1, 2024 - September 30, 2024

# Contract Oversight and Evaluations Highlights

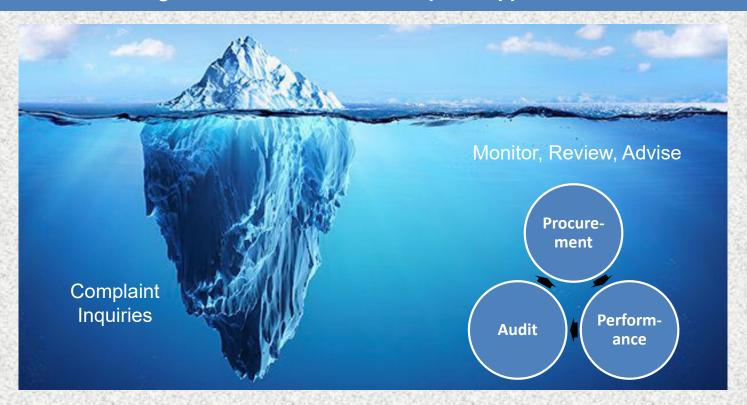


**April 1, 2024 – September 30, 2024** 

Contract Oversight and Evaluations	Current 6 Months	Previous 6 Months
Monitored Procurement Activities	54	49
On-going Formal Reviews/Evaluations	1	1
Issued Reports	0	1
On-going Investigative Activities	3	10
Investigative Activities Completed	9	4
Issued Tips and Trends	3	2



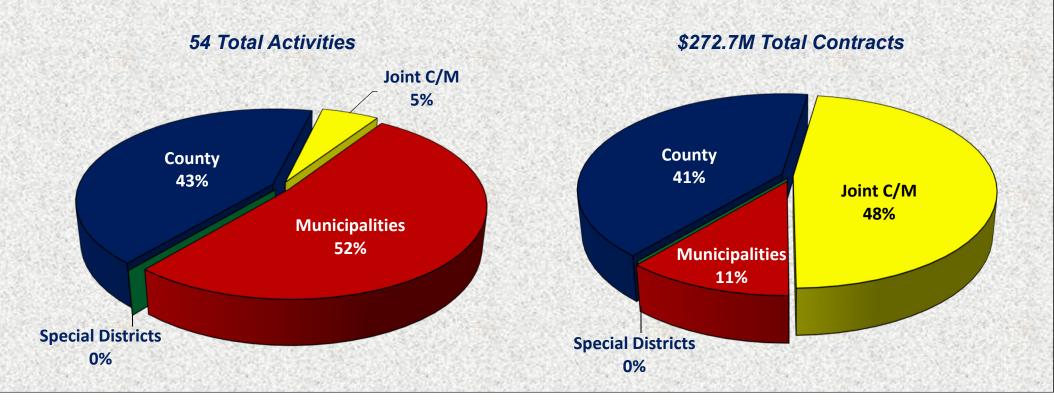
Contract Oversight Activities Much of our impact happens "below the water line."





April 1, 2024 - September 30, 2024

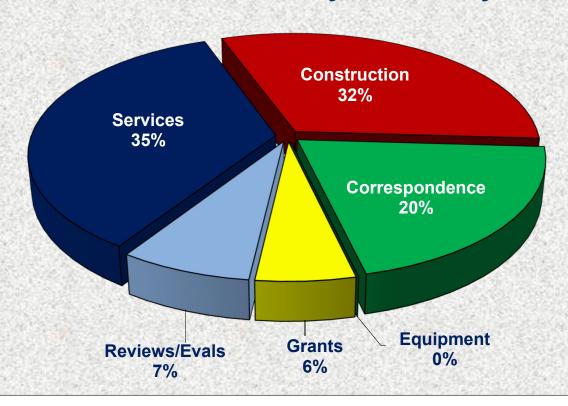
### **Contract Oversight and Evaluations - Monitored Activities**





**April 1, 2024 – September 30, 2024** 

### **Contract Activities by Commodity**



54 Total Activities



Inspection: CA-2024-0005: Palm Beach County, Facilities Development & Operations – Ocean Inlet Park

#### **INSPECTION OBJECTIVES:**

Verify the materials installed in accordance with the County's park marina renovation contract.

#### **INSPECTION:**

- > Boatlift Installation
- > Handrails and Gates
- > Safety and security







Inspection: CA-2024-0005: Palm Beach County, Facilities Development & Operations – Ocean Inlet Park





#### **RESULTS:**

- > No findings or recommendations, but we could not determine full compliance for handrails, gates, and boatlifts due to subcontractor electrical rework and design issues with handrails and gates.
- ➤ We were notified August 6, 2024 that all pending work items satisfactorily completed.



April 1, 2024 - September 30, 2024

# Contract/Procurement Investigative Reviews (No Reports Issued)





#### OIG Intake Referrals (No Report) - PBC Engineering & Public Works

<u>ALLEGATION</u>: An anonymous complaint that a subcontractor on a PBC roadworks project misappropriated stockpiled guardrails from PBC to use on an FDOT project.

This review was reviewed in cooperation with the FDOT IG.

ISSUES: The manufacturing stamp codes identify production lots. FDOT approves all materials by code before installation at jobsite. Some material codes used on a FDOT Turnpike project matched codes from PBC. The suspect coded materials were not approved by FDOT.





#### OIG Intake Referrals (No Report) - PBC Engineering & Public Works

#### FINDINGS: NOT SUPPORTED

- ➤ All PBC stockpiled materials were accounted for and verified by paid invoices and a manual count during IG inspection of the construction yard.
- MFR stamp codes do not indicate a specific customer, project, or delivery location.
- > Some unapproved guardrails were used on FDOT project but the source of the rails remains unknown.











#### OIG Intake Referrals (No Report) - PBC Engineering & Public Works

<u>ALLEGATION</u>: An anonymous complaint that PBC's guardrail contractor was overcharging repair work through line item manipulation, incomplete work, and shorting job materials.

#### **FINDING: NOT SUPPORTED**

PBC inspects the damaged rails, assesses the components by line item to be replaced, and submits the work order to the contractor. Our review showed that the contractor complied with the work order requirements.



ISSUE: The complainant was using the bid tab for line item prices instead of the contract prices where PBC removed the "unbalanced" line items prior to award. Furthermore, the complainant misinterpreted PBC's and FDOT guardrail specifications and standards regarding component replacement.



OIG Intake Referrals (No Report) - North Palm Beach, Municipal Country Club

<u>ALLEGATION</u>: Received two complaints regarding a piggyback contract to replace fencing around recreational courts, and one complaint alleging a procurement "no-bid" violation for repairs to the golf course.

#### FINDINGS: NOT SUPPORTED

- Village complied with piggyback policies and obtained quotes. Fence contract was canceled because of contractor bonding issues. A formal bid was issued.
- "Sole source" stabilization repairs to golf course were necessary to maintain signature course status. Village complied with policies to waive bid.
- OIG Report CA-2022-0023, NPB Piggyback Contract
- OIG Report CA-2021-0067, Lantana Library Renovation
- Tips & Trends 2024-0007, Exempt Purchases





April 1, 2024 - September 30, 2024

### Contract/Procurement Follow-Up Activities

(No Reports Issued)

### FOLLOW-UP To a FY 2022 Review



Report: CA-2021-0049: Palm Beach County Office Of Resilience (OOR)
Property Assessed Clean Energy (PACE) Program Review

#### **FINDINGS FROM FY 2022 REVIEW:**

- ➤ The OOR and the PACE Districts/Providers were in compliance with the County's Ordinance.
- > There were a few instances of ineligible owners of residential properties receiving PACE funding.
- > OOR does not have a formal written policy or procedures on how to implement the Ordinance.



#### **RECOMMENDATION:**

Implement policies and procedures to strengthen internal controls for reporting and documenting compliance with the requirements of the Ordinance.

### 2022-2024 Actions



Report: CA-2021-0049: Palm Beach County Office Of Resilience (OOR)
Property Assessed Clean Energy (PACE) Program Review

- > 2022 Public entities move to amend PACE ordinance and increase consumer protections.
- > 2023 Numerous lawsuits filed by PACE providers, tax collectors, and federal agencies.
- > 2024 2 county cases pending before Florida Supreme Court.
- > PACE law, s. 163.08 F.S. amended:
  - Makes many of the government desired consumer protection changes
  - States that a PACE provider must have a valid interlocal agreement with the county or municipality. (Closes Loophole)
  - Annual reporting, and requires an Auditor General operational audit every 3 years. (Adds Oversight)



### Now and the Future



Report: CA-2021-0049: Palm Beach County Office Of Resilience (OOR)
Property Assessed Clean Energy (PACE) Program Review

➤ The new law generally implements policies and procedures to strengthen internal controls for reporting and documenting compliance...as recommended by OIG.

▶ PBC is currently working on a new Ordinance to fully implement new PACE program requirements developed over past two years and comply with new law.

PBC will eventually create a new PPM for the PACE program.





April 1, 2024 - September 30, 2024

# Contract/Procurement Tips and Trends



#### THREE TIPS AND TRENDS ISSUED

- > 2023 Florida legislation prohibits local governmental entities providing economic incentives to certain foreign country of concern, or whose principal place of business is located in a foreign country of concern
- > 2023 Florida legislation defined *Tangible Personal Property Owned by Local Governments was* amended to change the definition of "Governmental Unit" to include county agencies, municipalities, and special districts. New responsibilities were placed on local governments.
- ➤ We provided guidance and best practices where circumstances may exist for public entities to forgo competitive procurement practices and utilize an exempt, non-competitive method.

**Emergency** 



**Piggybacking** 



Source



**April 1, 2024 – September 30, 2024** 

### Audit Highlights



April 1, 2024 - September 30, 2024

Audit Activities	Current 6 Months	Previous 6 Months
On-going Audits	7	8
Issued Reports	2	3
Recommendations Made	20	18
Recommendations Accepted	20	18
Questioned Costs and Potential Cost Savings	\$1,033,136	\$877,853
Issued Tips and Trends	0	1



**Questioned Costs** 

\$1,014,243.15

Audit Report 2024-A-0004 – Town of Loxahatchee Groves – Expenditure of Gas Tax Revenue

#### **FINDINGS:**

- > Allegation 1 Misuse of 5-cent local option fuel tax Not supported.
- Allegation 2 Purchase of rocks prior to Council approval Supported.
- > Noncompliance with the Town Ordinance (check signing) and Purchasing Policy & **Procedures Manual (use of Purchase Orders).**
- > Lack of sufficient separate accountability of gas tax revenues by source.
- Lack of sufficient controls over the vendor master file.
- User access was not sufficiently restricted.

#### **Recommendations:**

- > Update Town Resolution (payment of money) and District policy to align with Town Ordinances.
- > Implement a review and oversight process to ensure sufficient documentation is retained to show purchases have proper approval and use of a purchase order.
- > Implement a process that provides for sufficient, separate accountability for the use of gas tax revenues by revenue source (5-cent or 6-cent).
- > Restrict user access to ensure sufficient separation of duties.







Audit Report 2024-A-0005 - Royal Palm Beach Accounts Payable Expenditures and Cash Disbursements

#### **FINDINGS:**

- > The Village did not always comply with its Purchasing Guidelines dollar threshold by splitting purchases.
- > The Village lacked sufficient documentation for distributing gift cards and for business meeting reimbursements.
- > The Village lacked adequate controls over the vendor master file.

Questioned Costs \$18,892.47



#### **Recommendations:**

- > Enhance the purchasing review and oversight process.
- Maintain sufficient documentation for the distribution of gift cards and business meeting reimbursements.
- ➤ Deactivate duplicate and inactive vendor records, and routinely review the vendor master file and deactivate inactive, unauthorized, or erroneous vendor records.



Audit Report 2025-AP-0001
Fiscal Year 2025 Annual Risk Assessment and Audit Plan

## MULTIPLE ENTITIES GLOBAL AREA APPROACH:

This approach highlights the areas where the OIG will focus audit efforts. With a global approach, the audit plan:

- Minimize duplication with other Internal Audit Functions,
- Provides more flexibility for emerging risks,
- · Allows for smaller more focused audits, and
- Engages more municipalities / auditable units that have not previously been audited







### Audit Report 2025-AP-0001 Fiscal Year 2025 Annual Risk Assessment and Audit Plan

#### **Carryover Audits:**

- Management Request City of Pahokee Accounts Payable Expenditures/Cash Disbursements
- Management Request Palm Beach County Workforce Housing Program Wellington Club Apartments
- Contracts/Agreements Town of Palm Beach & John C. Cassidy Air Conditioning, Inc. Bid No. 2018-54 HVAC and Refrigeration Maintenance and Replacement
- Construction Contract Palm Beach County CMAR Services for PBSO Headquarters Renovations Project No. 11206
- Revenue/Cash Intake Solid Waste Authority Tipping Fees
- Referral City of Riviera Beach Purchasing Cards and Council Members' Out-of-State Travel Follow-up Audit



Audit Report 2025-AP-0001
Fiscal Year 2025 Annual Risk Assessment and Audit Plan

#### **Carryover Audits (continued):**

 Contracts/Agreements – Palm Beach Shores – Solid Waste and Recycling Collection and Disposal Services Agreement

#### **Planned Audit Activities:**

- Contracts/Agreements
- Water and Sewer Utility Billing and Cash Receipts
- Permitting
- Purchasing Cards

- Law Enforcement Overtime
- Grants
- Construction Contracts
- IT Network Security



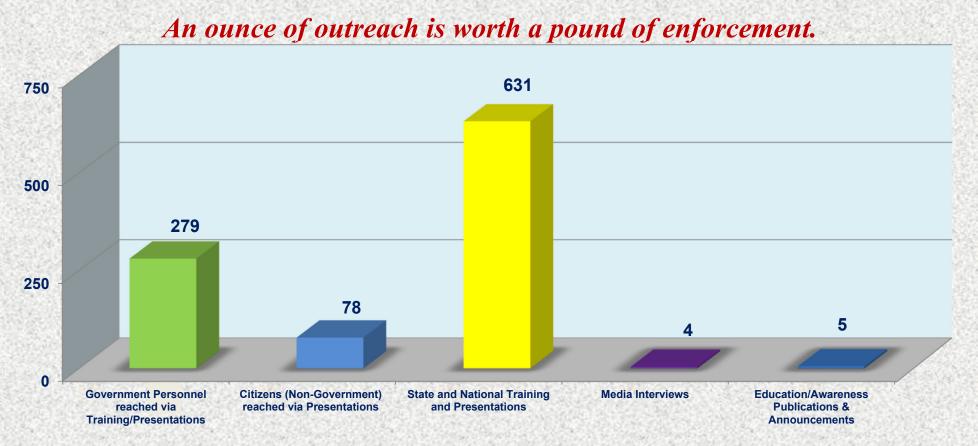
**April 1, 2024 – September 30, 2024** 

Training and Outreach

### TRAINING AND OUTREACH



#### **April 1, 2024 – September 30, 2024**



### TRAINING AND OUTREACH



#### **Education/Awareness Publications, Announcements, and Activities**



Florida Chapter Association of Inspectors General Tallahassee, Florida







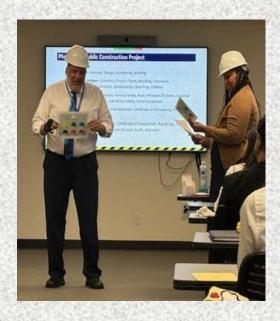




PALM BEACH COUNTY

TIPS AND TRENDS #2024-0007



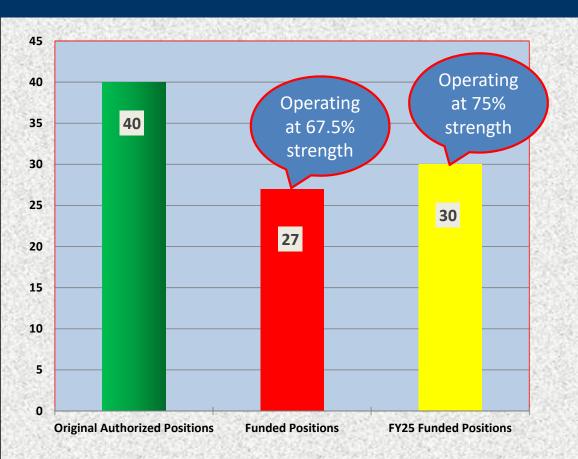




## **Budget and Staffing**

### INSPECTOR GENERAL BUDGET & STAFFING





**Annual Budget \$3.5M** 



"The sheer size of the operations that your office oversees, your office's jurisdiction and responsibility...is unparalleled by any other local government Inspector General office."

2024 AIG Peer Review Report



Plans, Objectives, and Initiatives

### PLANS, OBJECTIVES, AND INITIATIVES





#### FY 2025

- Publish FY 2024 Annual Report
- Significant Investigations, Audits and Review Reports Forthcoming
- > Fill three new positions
- Presenting at NOLA IG Training Conference
- 2025 Tentative IG Committee meeting dates: May 1 and Nov 6



### SPECIAL RECOGNITION AND FAREWELL

### SPECIAL THANKS AND WELL WISHES

## STATE ATTORNEY DAVE ARONBERG

• IG COMMITTEE MEMBER 2013-2024





## PUBLIC DEFENDER CAREY HAUGHWOUT

• IG COMMITTEE MEMBER 2010-2024





visit us online at www.pbcgov.com/OIG