

OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL  
CITY OF NEW ORLEANS



*For Immediate Release:*  
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*For Further Information:*  
IG Ed Quatrevaux  
(504) 681-3206

**STATEMENT**

My letter concerning allegations relating to the Superintendent contained an error. It said that “Chief Serpas signed the form on May 6<sup>th</sup>,” when it should have said he signed “the form dated May 6<sup>th</sup>.” I apologize for the error. Also, the letter did not intend to attribute the allegations to any specific news source – the allegations listed were derived by the OIG from multiple sources.

The OIG did not investigate whether Serpas drew pay from both Nashville and New Orleans on May 10<sup>th</sup>, because it is neither illegal nor uncommon for an executive to have overlapping pay during a transition to a new employer.

The OIG did not investigate whether the Interim Superintendent and Superintendent Serpas were both paid at the Superintendent’s level on May 10<sup>th</sup> because there is nothing illegal or improper about either payment. That two officials were paid the higher rate on the day of transition from one to the other is neither illegal nor does it violate personnel rules.

My letter reported that the dating of the form had no effect whatsoever on the amount of the Superintendent’s pension or when he could draw it -- there was no consequence. The OIG did not investigate whether the form’s dating on May 6<sup>th</sup> was an attempt to deceive, which was based on speculation that perhaps someone misinterpreted a caution on the form concerning eligibility after age 50. Superintendent Serpas stated that he signed the form dated May 6<sup>th</sup> on May 18<sup>th</sup>. Any further action would be a personnel matter because the date was inconsequential.

The OIG investigation into this matter is closed unless someone steps forward with allegations of violations and evidence to support it.

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