



JPOIG Overview

Security Services Contracting #2022-0038

October 25, 2023

Why We Did This Investigation

To determine if the Parish contracted with a security services provider who did not possess the requisite state licenses, and if so, determine if there were sufficient controls to prevent it. The scope period of the investigation was 09/27/2012 through 10/13/2022.

What We Recommend

The Council should amend JPCO §2-895 which requires the RFP be “used to obtain nonprofessional service(s)” to ensure the Parish Council does not and cannot circumvent this control.

The Parish Attorney’s Office and Purchasing Department should:

- Create a process to systematically review RFPs prior to advertisement to ensure minimum qualifications comply with applicable law;
- Create a process to systematically review negotiated contracts to ensure terms support compliance with applicable law;
- Develop evaluation criteria which specifically correlates to qualifications advertised in the RFP; and
- Modify forms relied upon by the Purchasing Department to ensure the forms support compliance with JPCO §2-923.

What We Found

The JPOIG’s investigation revealed actions that may violate State Contractor Law and Parish ordinances:

- ❖ The Parish Council approved a contract(s) with a vendor, New Era, who did not possess the required state license, because (1) services were not procured via RFP as required by ordinance, and (2) where services were procured via RFP, the RFP was not properly prepared.
- ❖ An unqualified proposer, New Era, was recommended for selection by the Parish Council, because proposals were not evaluated on specific required experience and technical expertise.
- ❖ The Parish Council selected a contractor where there was no proper disclosure of a subcontractor, because (1) services were not procured via RFP as required by ordinance, and (2) where services were procured via RFP, information provided in the proposals was not validated.

In its previous investigative report, JPOIG #2016-0006 which was provided in draft to the Parish on 11/02/2016 and published on 08/10/2017, the JPOIG found the “Method of Procurement violated Parish Ordinances” and “Significant deficiencies in controls over the RFP and contracting process.” The JPOIG recommended a procurement and legal review process to ensure they meet established requirements. In this report, the JPOIG makes the same or substantially similar recommendation.

In its previous audit report, JPOIG #2017-0027, which was provided in draft to the Parish on 10/24/2019 and published on 04/23/2020, the JPOIG found “Lack of Adequate Contract Oversight,” “Inadequate Support for Invoices” and no “Subcontractor Agreements” related to New Era’s contracts for security services. The JPOIG recommended all approved Parish contracts should require the prime contractor to provide evidence of a written subcontract agreement prior to the subcontractor engaging in any work.

Had the Parish taken corrective action based upon the JPOIG’s findings and recommendations in its previous reports, the current findings may have been resolved or harm mitigated.

Visit us at: www.JPOIG.net



[Twitter.com/JPOIG](https://twitter.com/JPOIG)



[Facebook.com/JPOIG](https://www.facebook.com/JPOIG)



[LinkedIn.com/Company/JPOIG](https://www.linkedin.com/company/jpoig)