



Jefferson Parish Office
of Inspector General

2026 MARCH REPORT



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This report is provided in connection with the Ethics and Compliance Commission meeting of March 18, 2026. It provides an overview of operations of JPOIG from January 17, 2026, through March 16, 2026.

Mission and Mandates

The JPOIG’s mission is to improve operations, to provide increase accountability, and to deter and identify fraud, waste, abuse, and illegal acts in Parish government. JPOIG achieves its mission through audits, evaluations, investigations, and transparency initiatives.

JPOIG’s responsibilities and duties are established by ordinance. The Jefferson Parish Code of Ordinances (JPCO) §2-155.10 requires the JPOIG to initiate and conduct audits, investigations, inspections, and performance reviews to conform to the Principles and Standards for Offices of Inspectors General (Green Book) promulgated by the Association of Inspectors General.

Parish ordinance requires the JPOIG to provide individuals, entities, departments, and officials who are the subject of a finding or recommendation the opportunity to comment and respond before a report is finalized and published. Parish ordinance also requires the JPOIG to provide affected parties an opportunity to respond to Public Letters before they are published. JPOIG reports and public letters are published on the JPOIG website.



The JPOIG met with the Parish President and Public Information Office (PIO) staff regarding the JPOIG education initiative. The PIO prepared a list of suggested means to promote the JPOIG and raise awareness. A copy of this Outreach Initiative is attached. The JPOIG is currently working with and will continue to work with the PIO to execute on this plan. We look forward to this opportunity for collaboration. *See Image for display of sign appearing in elevators.*



Administration

A. Budget

The JPOIG is supported by revenue from the Inspector General Special Services Funding District, a dedicated property tax. In October 2011, citizens authorized this tax for ten years. In November 2020, citizens voted to renew the tax for another ten years, i.e. through 2032. This revenue also supports the Jefferson Parish Ethics and Compliance Commission (JPECC). The JPOIG and JPECC entered into a Memorandum of Understanding to provide for the allocation of resources with greater specificity and particularity.

The 2026 1st Quarter Budget to Actual report will be available for the May 20, 2026, Ethics & Compliance Commission Meeting.

B. Staff Recruitment, Retention, and Development

Staff Evaluations

The JPOIG is committed to recruiting and retaining staff who collectively possess a variety of knowledge, skills, and experience to ensure mission success for the office. The JPOIG is equally committed to the professional growth and development of staff. No employees were due to be evaluated during this period.

C. Procurement

The JPOIG will be contracting with Civic Plus, which also designs and maintains the Parish website, through an available State contract.

The JPOIG will support a redesign and development of a new JPECC website.

The domain names of “JPOIG.gov” and “JPECC.gov” were denied. Substitute domain names of “Jeffparishecc.gov” and “Jeffparishoig.gov” were approved.

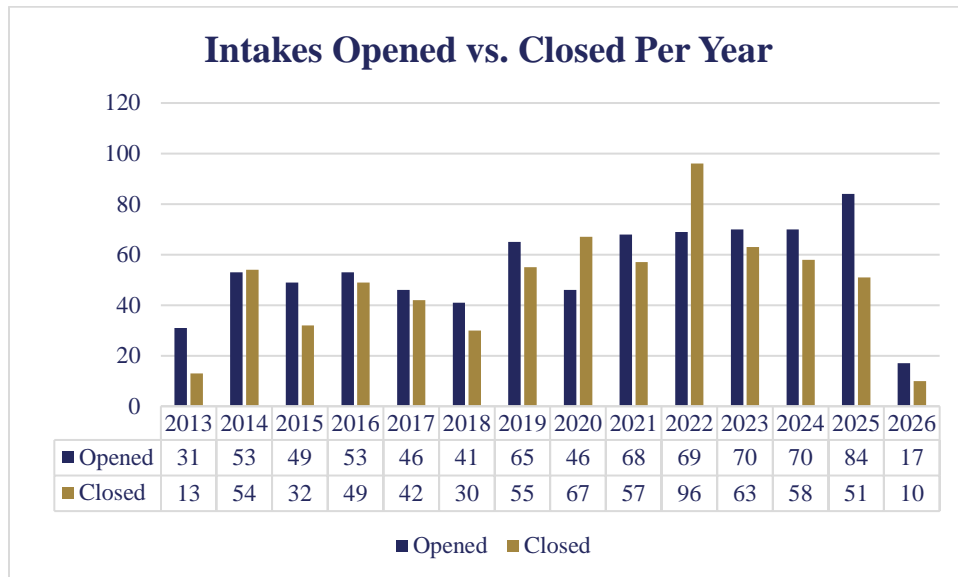
The approval of .gov addresses is a material change to the advertised RFP because there are specifications associated with hosting a .gov domain. Thus, the RFP was cancelled.

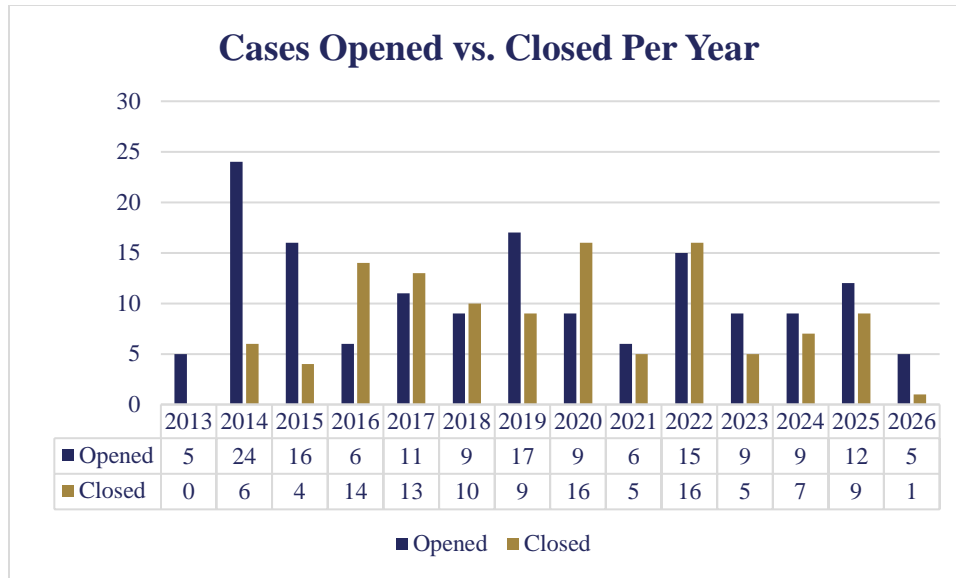
D. Compliance

The JPOIG has requested a Peer Review for the period 2023-2026 to be performed in September 2027.

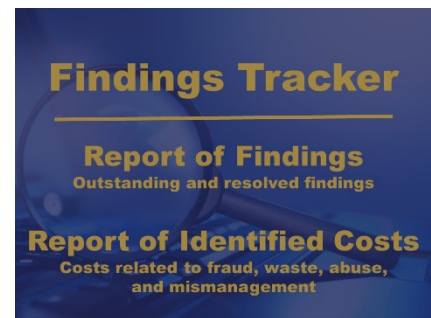
Milestones

Since 2013, the office has pursued matters that bear on core principles of transparency, accountability, ethics, and integrity in government.





During this same time, the JPOIG has reached numerous findings and made recommendations for corrective action. A report of these findings and related costs can be found on the JPOIG website.

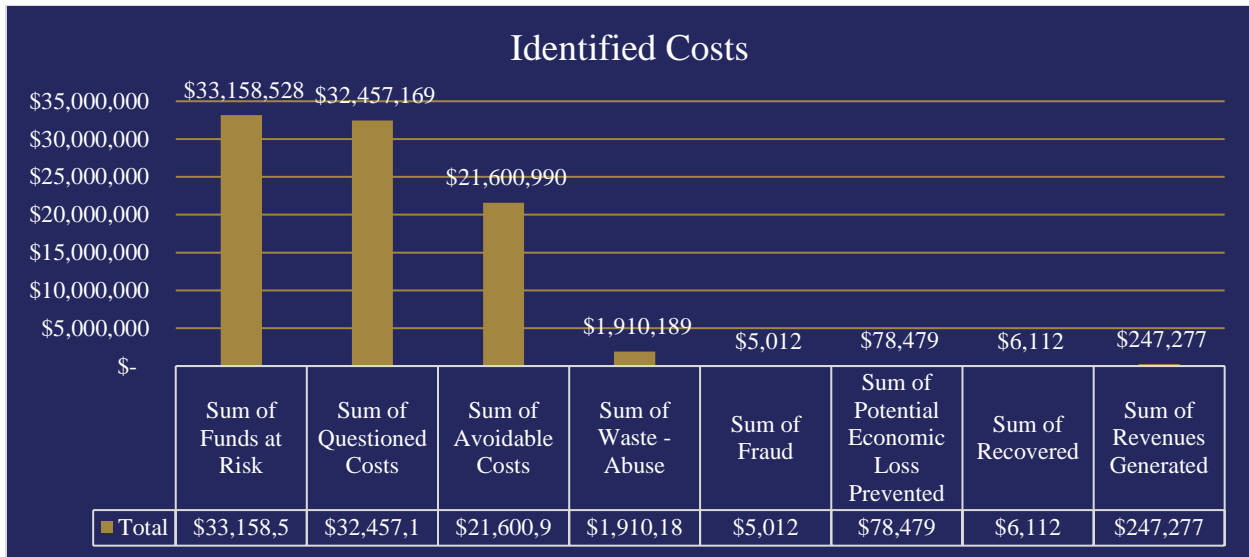


To date, the JPOIG has reached a total of **332 findings, concerns, and observations of which 192 findings remain unresolved.**

Summary of Findings Tracker

Updated quarterly – Last updated December 31, 2025





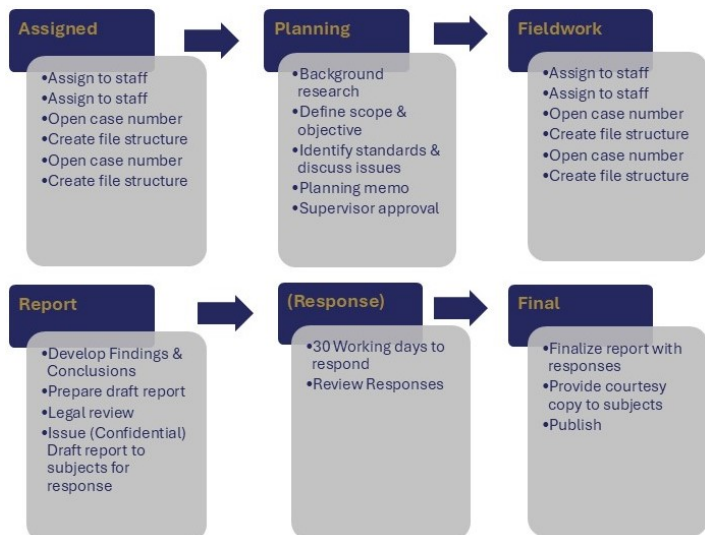
Cases

The JPOIG opened the following new “case” numbers in this reporting period. This includes new audits, investigations, evaluations, and public letters.

01/17/2026 through 03/16/2026			
Cases Opened	Open Date	Cases Closed	Close Date
2026-000000002	2/18/2026		
2026-000000003	2/18/2026		
2026-000000004	2/18/2026		
2026-000000005	2/23/2026		

Audits

The JPOIG initiates and conducts audit activity in compliance with the Principles and Standards for Offices of Inspectors General (Green Book) promulgated by the Association of Inspectors General. These standards call upon the office to adopt one of two national standards: (1) Standards for the Professional Practice of Internal Auditing, or (2) Generally Accepted Government Auditing Standards (GAGAS). Beginning in 2022, the JPOIG migrated to GAGAS standards, aka “Yellow Book.”



Status of Ongoing Audit Projects

Case Open Date	Case ID	Case Status	Summary	% Complete
Sep 30, 2024	2024-000000007	Planning Approval	Jefferson Facilities Inc. Source & Use of Funds	35%
Sep 30, 2024	2024-000000008	Assigned	Jefferson Redevelopment, Inc. Source & Use of Funds	5%
Feb 26, 2025	2025-000000002	Planning	Parish Use of LCMC Hospital Lease Proceeds	30%

Summary of Audit Objectives

Jefferson Facilities, Inc., Source & Use of Funds **2024-000000007**

An audit to determine if the Parish is receiving the services as required under the Cooperative Endeavor Agreements.

Jefferson Redevelopment, Inc., Source & Use of Funds **2024-000000008**

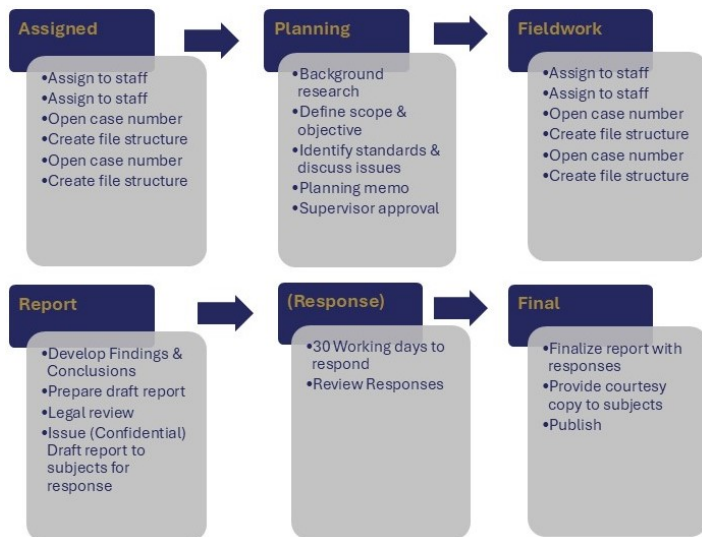
An audit to determine if the Parish is receiving the services as required under the Cooperative Endeavor Agreements.

Hospital Svr. District No. 1 Use of Proceeds **2025-000000002**

An audit to review all expenditures and projects funded by lease proceeds and to determine whether expenditures comply with relevant laws, intended restrictions, and to meet community health needs.

Evaluations and Inspections

The JPOIG initiates and conducts evaluation activity in compliance with the Principles and Standards for Offices of Inspectors General (Green Book) promulgated by the Association of Inspectors General.



Status of Ongoing Evaluation Projects

Case Open Date	Case ID	Case Status	Summary	% Complete
Oct 18, 2023	2023-000000009	Report Approval	Third-Party Inspections Evaluation	90%
Jul 27, 2025	2025-000000007	Report/Review	East Bank Consolidated Fire Department Secondary Employment	85%
Nov 3, 2025	2025-000000009	Assigned	Review of Transaction for Renovation and Lease of 519 Huey P. Long	5%
Nov 3, 2025	2025-000000010	Planning	Review of Parish Capital Project Process for Multi-Use Development	30%

Summary of Evaluation Objectives

Third-Party Inspections **2023-000000009**

An evaluation of the Building Permits Department’s processing of third-party inspections.

East Bank Consolidated Fire Department Secondary Employment **2025-000000007**

An evaluation to determine whether employees are working secondary employment while on off-duty injury leave, and if so, the nature of employment and potential for fraud, waste, and abuse.

Review of Transaction for Renovation and Lease of 519 Huey P. Long **2025-000000009**

A review of the transaction for the renovation and lease of 519 Huey P. Long Avenue.

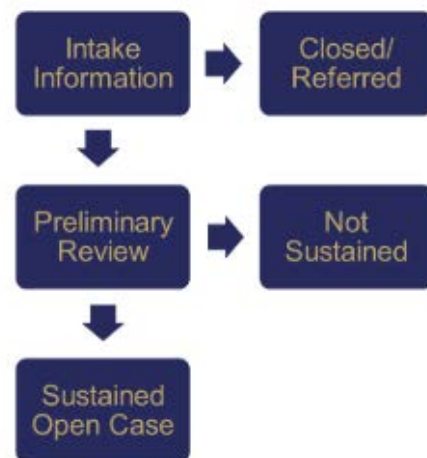
Review of Parish Capital Project Process for Multi-Use Development **2025-000000010**

A review of the Parish’s Capital Project process to obtain State funding for the Multi-Use Development and Parking Garage.

Investigations

Intakes

Information is key to preventing and detecting fraud, waste, abuse, and illegal acts within government. The JPOIG systematically captures, tracks, maintains, and assesses information received. JPOIG uses professional judgment to determine whether information is worthy of an assigned Intake number. Factors considered include jurisdiction; reliability of information; potential harm to government; alternative relief; and available resources. Intakes are closed for a variety of reasons to include that information cannot be substantiated. The following table reflects Intakes opened and closed during the reporting period.



01/17/2026 through 03/16/2026			
Intakes Opened	Complaint Date	Intakes Closed	Close Date
2026-000000005	1/19/2026	2025-000000006	2/18/2026
2026-000000007	1/23/2026	2025-000000016	2/18/2026
2026-000000008	1/26/2026	2025-000000052	2/18/2026
2026-000000009	2/10/2026	2025-000000054	2/18/2026
2026-000000010	2/11/2026	2025-000000074	2/18/2026
2026-000000011	1/29/2026	2025-000000078	2/18/2026
2026-000000012	2/22/2026	2025-000000080	2/18/2026
2026-000000013	2/23/2026	2026-000000004	2/18/2026
2026-000000014	2/27/2026	2026-000000009	2/18/2026
2026-000000015	2/22/2026		
2026-000000016	3/5/2026		
2026-000000017	3/9/2026		
2026-000000018	3/16/2026		

Cases

The JPOIG initiates and conducts investigative activity in compliance with the *Principles and Standards for Offices of Inspectors General* (Green Book) promulgated by the Association of Inspectors General.

Investigations as of:	03/16/2026
Open Intakes:	84
Open Cases:	27

Referrals

The JPOIG made 7 referrals from 01/17/2026 through 03/15/2026.

Referrals made from 01/17/2026 through 03/16/2026	
Ethics and Compliance Commission:	1
State Ethics Board:	1
Enforcement Agencies:	4
Parish Departments:	1

Public Letters

Public letters satisfy our mission to prevent fraud, waste, abuse, and illegal acts. Unlike reports which are reactive and detective, public letters are proactive and preventative. Public letters are issued (1) before an action or decision is made; or (2) as early communication upon the discovery of information but before a full analysis can be completed.

Status of Ongoing Public Letters

Case Open Date	Case ID	Case Status	Summary	% Complete
Jan 16, 2026	2026-000000001	Assigned	Clarification of Inspector General Access to Electronic Communications and Privileged Materials	5%
Feb 23, 2026	2026-000000005	Assigned	Review of Lease Transactions for Multi-Use Development - Rent Terms	5%

Reports and Public Letters

Reports satisfy our mission to detect fraud, waste, abuse, and illegal acts. They are a comprehensive look into a past issue, its impact, and the measures needed to prevent recurrence. Reports seek to uncover what happened, why it happened, and how to stop it from happening again. Their value lies in a detailed analysis that can guide future decisions. Investigative reports were developed based upon information provided to or learned by the JPOIG. Audit and Evaluation reports were the product of planned activity.

Public letters satisfy our mission to prevent fraud, waste, abuse, and illegal acts. Unlike reports which are reactive and detective, public letters are proactive and preventative. Public letters are issued (1) before an action or decision is made; or (2) as early communication upon the discovery of information but before a full analysis can be completed. For example, a public letter may review proposed legislation and its potential impact on operations based upon facts that are known and risks that can be identified. A well-timed public letter warns of risks and highlights vulnerabilities. Its value is in prompting change to prevent a loss.

The JPOIG has issued the following:

- Public Letter 2025-0011: Proposed Amendments to Section 33-1.22 JPCO. The final report was released publicly on 03/16/2026.

Published reports and public letters are briefed before the Ethics and Compliance Commission.



JPOIG Overview

Public Letter (Proposed) Amendments to Section 33-1.22
Jefferson Parish Code of Ordinances, #2025-0011

March 16, 2026

Why We Issued This Letter

Pursuant to its legislative review authority under JPCO §2-155.10(11)(f), the JPOIG issued this public letter to evaluate the efficacy of the Planning Advisory Board (PAB) membership qualifications outlined in JPCO §33-1.22(c)(2). This review was prompted by recent investigative findings indicating that the current property-ownership requirement conflicts with the PAB's intended purpose and established constitutional standards.

Why We Are Concerned

Property-ownership requirements present significant governance problems by arbitrarily excluding highly qualified professionals, such as urban planners, architects, and engineers, simply because they rent rather than own property. This mandate guarantees an underrepresentation of renter interests, despite renters possessing substantial stakes in local planning and zoning decisions. Because property ownership bears no correlation to actual planning expertise, maintaining this requirement restricts the applicant pool, undermines balanced community representation, and exposes the Parish to ongoing legal risk.

Responses

On December 8, 2025, the Chief of Staff for District 3 responded to the draft public letter on behalf of Councilman Byron L. Lee. The response officially affirmed that Councilman Lee concurs with the JPOIG's findings.

What We Found

Background. The Jefferson Parish Planning Advisory Board (PAB) is a seven-member, Council-appointed advisory body responsible for conducting hearings and recommending action on land use, zoning, and subdivision items. Operating on a 2025 budget of \$231,091, members serve four-year terms, receive a \$150 per diem, and may meet up to 52 times annually. JPCO Sec. 33-1.22(c)(2) mandated that all members must reside, vote, and own property in Jefferson Parish.

Recent Appointments and Subsequent Investigations. On 9/17/2025, the Jefferson Parish Council agenda included a resolution to appoint Girod Jackson to the PAB as the representative for Council District 3. Upon review, the JPOIG determined that Mr. Jackson did not meet the qualifications because he did not own property in Jefferson Parish, as required by the Jefferson Parish Code of Ordinances (JPCO). The JPOIG formally notified the Council of this likely ineligibility prior to the meeting. The Council subsequently amended the resolution to substitute Simeon Dickerson as the appointee, approving him by a 7-0 vote; however, Mr. Dickerson likewise appeared to lack the JPCO required property qualifications. In response, the JPOIG initiated Investigation JPOIG #2025-0008, which marks the second investigation since 2018 regarding the appointment of an unqualified individual to the PAB. Upon further investigation, it was found that a separate PAB board member lacked the property ownership requirement as well.

Comparative Legal and Constitutional Deficiencies. Jefferson Parish's property-ownership mandate is an outlier; Louisiana state law, peer parishes (such as Orleans and East Baton Rouge), and neighboring states require only varying forms of voter qualification or residency. Furthermore, U.S. Supreme Court precedent establishes that property ownership bears no rational relationship to serving on governmental advisory bodies, even those specifically considering land-use issues, and is a form of unconstitutional wealth-based discrimination.

Subsequent Council Action. After the JPOIG notified the Council of existing unqualified appointments, the Council adopted Ordinance No. 27105 on 12/10/2025, removing the PAB property ownership requirement. However, despite possessing the JPOIG's draft recommendations, the Council failed to establish any new criteria requiring relevant knowledge or expertise.

Visit us at: www.JPOIG.net



x.com/JPOIG







Facebook.com/JPOIG



LinkedIn.com/Company/JPOIG

Public Outreach and Engagement

Social Media Platform		Engagement
	Facebook 975 Followers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gained 12 followers. • 7 Posts/Re-posts. • Reached 7,385 viewers across app posts. • Page Visits: 902.
	Instagram 100 Followers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gained 4 followers. • 4 Posts/Re-posts. • Reached 82 viewers across app posts. • Profile Visits: 10.
	X 182 Followers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lost 1 follower. • 6 Tweets/Re-tweets.
	Linked-In 374 Followers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lost 3 followers. • 5 Posts/Re-posts. • 1,040 Post Impressions.

During the period from January 17, 2026, through March 16, 2026, Inspector General Kim Raines Chatelain spoke with 3 civic groups regarding the work of the JPOIG and how to stay connected with the Office. IG Chatelain spoke with the following groups:

- Home Defense Foundation (01/22/2026)
- Louisiana Republican Assembly – NOLA Region (02/09/2026)
- Waggaman Civic Association (03/04/2026)



JPOIG In the News...

<https://www.wvltv.com/article/news/local/jefferson-parish-president-inspector-general-clash-over-employee-email-access/289-18b92c5d-74bc-42c2-8ef9-7f98cb717d34>

https://www.nola.com/news/jefferson_parish/ig-lee-sheng-jefferson-parish-employee-email-list/article_97fa12b5-0848-443e-8e62-0988d49f7423.html

<https://wgno.com/news/louisiana/jefferson-parish/heated-discussion-revolved-around-gretna-brewpub-during-the-jp-council-meeting/>

“35 pages and 113 footnotes on the first publication. It was 46 pages, excluding the expert report and the 53 footnotes, and there has been no corrective action to address any of the concerns,” said Jefferson Parish Inspector General Kim Raines Chatelain.”

https://www.nola.com/news/jefferson_parish/port-orleans-says-jefferson-parish-broke-brewpub-contract/article_fb945bbd-fa79-4839-8b1d-4d7d2087b969.html

https://www.nola.com/news/jefferson_parish/gretna-brewpub-jefferson-parish-council/article_a0264dfd-9f4d-4b6e-9060-f980a6df21aa.html

“But Jefferson Parish Inspector General Kim Chatelain, who has been a staunch opponent to the brewpub, sent a letter to the council ahead of the meeting requesting a deferral, saying that her office is working on reports about JFI that could help the council's decision-making once published.”



Jefferson Parish IG, Cynthia Lee Sheng clash over access to employee email list

BY LARA NICHOLSON | Staff writer Jan 22, 2026 2 min to read Subscriber Exclusive



Jefferson Parish Council and of Inspector General Kim Chatelain listens to a Jefferson Parish council meeting at the Jefferson Parish Government Center in Gretna, La., Wednesday, Jan. 15, 2023. STAFF PHOTO BY SOPHIA GEMNER

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Outreach Initiative



JPOIG Outreach Initiative

JEFFERSON PARISH, LOUISIANA

January 28, 2026

The following outlines suggested ways that the Jefferson Parish Public Information Office (PIO) can work with the Jefferson Parish Office of Inspector General (JPOIG) on its education initiative to inform parish employees:

- Placing **JPOIG signage and/or flyers in parish buildings** explaining the OIG's role and reporting mechanisms (PIO can also assist the OIG with graphic design, as needed). Possible locations include:
 - Signage in Yenni Building elevators
 - Signage in General Government Building elevators
 - Signage/flyers on table when you walk into Council Chambers
 - Signage/flyers in Parish Department break rooms, as available (suggest sending design files to all department directors to place in appropriate locations)
- Educational materials placed out at the **Employee Ethics Training Sessions** (coordinated by our Ethics & Compliance Department twice a month) and at **New-Employee Onboarding** (coordinated by HR).
- Running more **PSA/billboards on Jefferson Parish Government Access Television (JPTV)**, a 24-hour resource currently available in Jefferson Parish on Cox Communications Channel 6, AT&T U-Verse Channel 99, and streaming online at www.jeffparish.TV
 - *Note: we already stream all ECC meetings on JPTV/JeffParish.TV and we run a billboard that reads "It's never the wrong time to do the right thing! Report fraud, waste, and abuse. 504.736.8961, www.ipoiq.net).*
- **Prominent placement on the Home Page of JeffConnect**, our Jefferson Parish Employee Intranet Portal (link to OIG's website to ["Report Waste, Fraud or Abuse"](#)).
- More prominent placement on the **Jefferson Parish public website (www.jeffparish.gov)**, suggested locations include:
 - Link to OIG's website under the **"Report" > "fraud waste & abuse" tab on the homepage**
 - Link under the **"How Can I..." > "Report" > "fraud waste & abuse" header on homepage**
 - Link to OIG's website under **"Transparency in Government" button on homepage**
 - Link under **"Government" > "Transparency in Government" header on homepage**
 - *Note: The OIG maintains its own website, separate from the parish website. Currently, if you search "Inspector General" on the homepage of the parish website, the first result is the OIG's website. A link to the OIG's website is also under the "Resources" > "Partners" > "Government" section. More appropriate placements can be discussed.*

- Sending out a **quarterly informational email to “All Users” on the OIG’s behalf and adding an OIG section to JeffTalk** (HR employee newsletter sent quarterly to “All Users” and placed on the Intranet. 2026 article deadlines are Feb. 24, May 28, Aug, 27 and Dec. 2).
- Providing an opportunity for employees to **subscribe to an OIG newsletter** for regular education and informational emails.
 - *Note: if the OIG uses CivicPlus or something similar for its website, there should be a way to set this up so that employees can opt in to receive regular emails and/or text alerts whenever a press release and/or meeting notice is posted.*
- Creating a centralized, easy-to-share **digital toolkit for department directors and supervisors** that includes OIG messaging, graphics, flyers, links to reporting resources and suggested language for internal communications.
- Collaboration on an annual **“Ethics and Transparency Awareness” campaign**, aligning messaging with “Ethics Awareness Week/Month” and reinforcing the OIG’s role (some ideas include providing an area for the OIG to **table at parish buildings with flyers, PIO sharing graphics about the work of the OIG on Jefferson Parish social media channels, etc.**)
 - *Note: The OIG maintains its own [Facebook](#), [Twitter/X](#), [YouTube](#) and [LinkedIn](#) pages; however, the PIO can promote the work of the OIG with a graphic and tag its social media pages and/or amplify certain timely messages by sharing posts, creating an OIG YouTube playlist, etc.*

The PIO is available to discuss any of the ideas outlined above and welcomes the opportunity to explore additional outreach or education strategies that may further support the OIG’s mission. We are happy to collaborate on new concepts, messaging, or communication tools as needs evolve.

REPORT WASTE, FRAUD, OR ABUSE

BY INTERNET:

Visit our website at www.jpoig.net, click
"Report Waste, Fraud, or Abuse"

BY PHONE:

Call our tip line at (504) 528-4444

BY MAIL:

990 N. Corporate Drive, Suite 300
Jefferson, LA 70123

IN PERSON:

Contact us at (504) 736-8962 to schedule an appointment

JPOIG Social Media



[X.com/JPOIG](https://x.com/JPOIG)



Channel: Jefferson
Parish Office of
Inspector General



Facebook.com/JPOIG



LinkedIn.com/Company/JPOIG



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