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Inspector General fires off scathing letter to Mayor Nagin

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New Orleans - The city's Inspector General has fired off a scathing letter to the mayor, accusing the police chief of breaking the law.

Ed Quatrevaux writes that the new independent police monitor, part of the IG's office, can't get the required access to information about complaints against police.

It appears to be a disagreement about the timing of when the police monitor gets to see police records.

Quatrevaux cites a groundswell of displeasure with police harassment, insults and worse and specifically mentions last week's guilty plea by a police lieutenant in the Danziger Bridge case.

He tells Mayor Nagin "the superintendent has repeatedly refused to comply with the law."

The letter points out Riley says he is shocked by the misconduct of some of his officers on the bridge, but Quatrevaux says the chief ordered the very officers charged with investigating complaints of misconduct to ignore the law as it applies to the NOPD.

Quatrevaux's letter accuses the chief of holding back information about on-going investigations.

He complains the chief has required the police monitor apply directly to him before it get access to the files of the NOPD's Public Integrity Bureau; even though the IG complains the law makes clear the police monitor is supposed to be in the loop.

Quatrevaux says, publically, the chief blasted former Lt. Michael Lohman for his attempt to cover up what happened on the Danziger Bridge.

"His actions were intolerable, criminal and did not represent the core values of this police department," Riley said last week at a press conference.

Last week, Lohman admitted to encouraging officers involved in the Danziger shooting to fabricate the story to plant a gun and submit false reports.

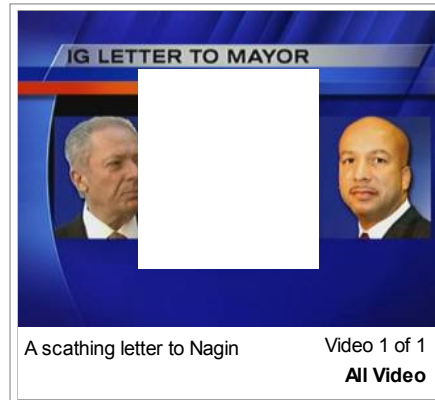
Quatrevaux points out to Nagin that the mayor signed the ordinance that set up the independent police monitor.

He says the chief will not consider the police monitors request until investigations are wrapped up.

In the letter, he tells Nagin "the odious smell hanging over the NOPD will affect all police officers good and bad until someone the public trusts certifies that the NOPD is properly investigating allegations of police misconduct."

He urges the mayor to tell the chief to hand over the information.

Tonight, a Nagin spokesman said the mayor would have a follow-up conversation with the chief.



Inspector General Ed Quatrevaux/FILE (FOX 8 News)

But Nagin aides say with federal investigations underway, the IG cannot have unfettered access until those investigations are complete.

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