



Everything New Orleans

## Mayor Mitch Landrieu embraces city's inspector general's role

By Michelle Krupa, The Times-Picayune

June 07, 2010, 5:57AM



Michael DeMocker / The Times-Picayune archive

Mayor Mitch Landrieu

It's no secret that former Mayor **Ray Nagin** had little love for New Orleans' **inspector general**.

As Nagin's eight-year administration drew to a close, Inspector General Ed Quatrevaux, who took over the IG's office last fall, was just hitting his stride. This year alone, he issued five reports and public letters finding fault with the Nagin administration's handling of contracts, police records and other matters.

With each report, he stressed his objective: to root out corruption and inefficiency in local government.

Nagin answered the criticism by suggesting that the inspector general was a puppet for a white-dominated "shadow government"

bent on swiping economic and political power from African-American residents.

As Mayor Mitch Landrieu this week announced **a new policy** designed to make the city contracting process more transparent and to help firms owned by minorities and women land more city work, he made a not-so-veiled reference to his predecessor's qualms.

"There's been a lot of consternation in this city about an inspector general -- a lot of smoke, a lot of mirrors, a lot of discussion about whether we actually needed one at all, and a tremendous amount of fear about what his office has been historically designed to do," he said.

With Quatrevaux at his shoulder, Landrieu explained his alternate view.

"For those of us who have worked in government for any length of time, that was curious," he said of Nagin's position. "Because on the state level, where I worked for 22 years before coming to the city of New Orleans, we had an inspector general that we worked with on a regular basis.

"And it became common practice -- a common, good best practice on the state level -- to work with an inspector general that knew what his job was, did it really well and did it in a way that was designed to make sure that the public had confidence in the way that government operated," Landrieu said.

He said Quatrevaux helped craft the new contracting policy and will have an important role in monitoring it. In fact, the job description of the city's new chief procurement officer calls for regular communication with the inspector general.

Quatrevaux found himself in the unfamiliar position of agreeing with the city's top elected official.

"Before he was elected, the mayor reached out to our office and requested our assistance in providing



The Times-Picayune archive

Inspector General Ed Quatrevaux

examples of best practices tried in other cities around the United States," he said.

"We did that," Quatrevaux continued, "and I'm happy to be here today to tell you that we have a good contracting process for professional-services contracts."

*Michelle Krupa can be reached at [mkrupa@timespicayune.com](mailto:mkrupa@timespicayune.com) or 504.826.3312.*

© 2010 NOLA.com. All rights reserved.