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## Report Highlights

# City of Ville Platte

Audit Control # 50180030  
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### Why We Conducted This Audit

On June 25, 2018, we received a complaint that Mayor Jennifer Vidrine receives a car allowance and uses a City of Ville Platte (City) vehicle for personal use. We received an additional complaint on September 28, 2018, that Mayor Vidrine used a City vehicle to place a campaign sign within the City limits. This audit was initiated to determine the validity of those complaints.

### What We Found

#### Mayor and Board of Aldermen Appear to Have Received Excess Compensation

From July 2017 to June 2018, the City appears to have paid Mayor Jennifer Vidrine and the Board of Aldermen (Board) \$40,734 in excess compensation. Although their salaries were set by ordinance, Mayor Vidrine received monthly vehicle and phone allowances and per diem payments for attending regular monthly Board meetings, while Board members also received monthly vehicle allowances and per diem payments for attending regular monthly Board meetings. These allowances and per diem payments increased their respective compensation above the amounts set by ordinance. Payments in excess of the salaries set by the Board may violate state law.

#### Mayor's Use of City Vehicle

Mayor Vidrine may have violated City policy and state law by using her City vehicle for personal purposes. In addition, the City's practice of assigning a City-owned vehicle to the mayor and paying the mayor an annual vehicle allowance appears to duplicate benefits in possible violation of the Louisiana Constitution. Finally, we observed that the City-owned vehicle assigned to Mayor Vidrine did not have a public license plate or a logo bearing the City's name, in accordance with state law.

View the full report, including management's response, at [www.la.gov](http://www.la.gov).