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**TONI PRECKWINKLE**

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OFFICE OF THE INDEPENDENT INSPECTOR GENERAL

**PATRICK M. BLANCHARD**

INSPECTOR GENERAL

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March 11, 2013

Ms. Marla Harris  
Deputy General Counsel  
Office of the Governor, State of Illinois  
JRTC, 100 W. Randolph St.  
Suite 16-100  
Chicago, Illinois 60601

Ms. Elizabeth Whitehorn  
Associate General Counsel  
Office of the Governor, State of Illinois  
JRTC, 100 W. Randolph St.  
Suite 16-100  
Chicago, Illinois 60601

Re: Proposed Legislation

Dear Ms. Harris and Ms. Whitehorn:

Thank you for meeting with us last Thursday to discuss proposed legislation relating to the jurisdiction of county offices of inspectors general in Illinois. In response to issues that you raised at our meeting, we have decided to focus our attention on jurisdiction relating to government officials operating within a county rather than to appointed members of boards or commissions in unincorporated districts, at least until we have developed a good solution to the issue you raised regarding boards and commissions consisting of members appointed by different government entities. We have also decided to remove any proposed language relating to ethics laws as it may only add confusion to the inspector general jurisdiction issue.

Attached please find two alternative versions of a proposed amendment to the Illinois Counties Code relating to the jurisdiction of an office of a county inspector general over government officials in its county. The first version is more limited and provides jurisdiction only over separately elected or appointed officials of the county, such as the County Clerk and County Recorder. The second version is being offered as a possible solution to the issue we



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discussed regarding non-County officials whose offices are funded by the County but whose offices otherwise have no inspector general oversight. Under this second version, a county inspector general's office would have jurisdiction over state agencies such as the State's Attorney's Office and Clerk of the Circuit Court serving a particular county where that agency is funded by appropriations from that county.

Please let us know if you have any questions regarding the proposed amendment or would like to discuss the issue further. Thank you for your consideration of this matter.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Patrick M. Blanchard". The signature is written in a cursive style with some loops and flourishes.

Patrick M. Blanchard  
Independent Inspector General

cc: Steven E. Cyranoski, General Counsel  
Tirrell J. Paxton, Deputy Inspector General

encl.

Proposed amendment to the Illinois Counties Code regarding oversight for separately elected county officials.

## **Chapter 55. Counties**

### **Article 3. Officers and Employees**

#### **Division 3-16. Inspector General Oversight**

All elected and appointed County officials shall be subject to the jurisdiction of the County's Inspector General and the Inspector General's enabling legislation. The Inspector General's jurisdiction extends to anyone who is, or is seeking to be, an employee, agent, contractor, subcontractor, licensee, or grantee of any such County official.

55 ILCS 5/3-16001

Proposed amendment to the Illinois Counties Code regarding oversight for separately elected county officials and government officials funded by the County.

## **Chapter 55. Counties**

### **Article 3. Officers and Employees**

#### **Division 3-16. Inspector General Oversight**

All elected and appointed County officials and all government officials whose offices are funded in whole or in part by the County pursuant to the County's annual appropriation bill or otherwise receive funds from the County for their operations shall be subject to the jurisdiction of the County's Inspector General and the Inspector General's enabling legislation. The Inspector General's jurisdiction extends to anyone who is, or is seeking to be, an employee, agent, contractor, subcontractor, licensee, or grantee of any such County or County-funded government official.

55 ILCS 5/3-16001