

TODD H. STROGER

PRESIDENT

EARLEAN COLLINS	1st Dist.	PETER N. SILVESTRI	9th Dist.
ROBERT STEELE	2nd Dist.	BRIDGET GAINER	10th Dist.
JERRY BUTLER	3rd Dist.	JOHN P. DALEY	11th Dist.
WILLIAM M. BEAVERS	4th Dist.	FORREST CLAYPOOL	12th Dist.
DEBORAH SIMS	5th Dist.	LARRY SUFFREDIN	13th Dist.
JOAN PATRICIA MURPHY	6th Dist.	GREGG GOSLIN	14th Dist.
JOSEPH MARIO MORENO	7th Dist.	TIMOTHY D. SCHNEIDER	15th Dist.
EDWIN REYES	8th Dist.	ANTHONY J. PERAICA	16th Dist.
		ELIZABETH ANN DOODY GORMAN	17th Dist.

**PATRICK M. BLANCHARD**
INSPECTOR GENERAL

69 West Washington
Suite 1160
Chicago, Illinois 60602
TEL (312) 603-0350
FAX (312) 603-9948

July 15, 2010

Honorable Todd H. Stroger
and Members of the Board of Commissioners
of Cook County, Illinois
118 North Clark Street
Chicago, Illinois 60602

Re: Independent Inspector General Quarterly Report (2nd Qtr. 2010)

Dear President Stroger and Members of the Board of Commissioners:

This report is written in accordance with section 2-287 of the Independent Inspector General (OIIG) Ordinance, Cook County, Ill., Ordinances 07-O-52 (2007), to apprise you of the activities of this office during the time period beginning April 1, 2010 through June 30, 2010.

Please be advised that we have retained 4 new members of the OIIG investigative staff. Investigator Romano DiBenedetto has joined this office after serving 16 years in the State's Attorney's Office with extensive experience in Professional Standards and the Felony Trial Division. Investigator Henry Dixon has practiced law for 10 years and has developed significant experience in compliance oversight and procurement issues while serving as a Lt. Colonel with the U.S. Army. Investigator Rachel Marrello is an attorney specializing in employment law and, most recently, has served as an investigating attorney for the past 3 years with the *Shakman* Compliance Administrator's Office. Investigator Steven Matteson possesses more than 25 years of federal law enforcement experience having held supervisory positions with both the Naval Criminal Investigative Service (NCIS) and in the Department of Homeland Security. We are fortunate to have each of them with the OIIG.

In connection with the number of complaints received during the subject reporting period, please be advised that this office has received a total of 89 complaints. As indicated in previous reports, upon receipt of a complaint, an OIIG complaint number is assigned to the contact and a triage process of each complaint is undertaken. We will initiate a formal investigation when appropriate by assigning an IIG case number and investigator to the matter. In order to streamline the OIIG process and maximize the number of complaints that will be subject to review, if a complaint is not initially opened as a formal investigation it may also be reviewed as an "OIIG inquiry." This level of review involves a determination of corroborating evidence before assigning an IIG case number to the complaint. When the initial review reveals information warranting the opening of a formal investigation, an OIIG case number is assigned.



Honorable Todd H. Stroger
and Members of the Board of Commissioners
July 15, 2010
Page 2

Conversely, if additional information is developed to warrant the closing of the OIIG Inquiry this will occur.

Accordingly, please be aware that during the subject reporting period, 19 IIG investigations have been initiated. This number also includes those investigations resulting from the exercise of my own initiative (OIIG Ordinance, sec. 2-284(2)). Additionally, of the recent complaints received, 6 have involved an OIIG inquiry prior to closing. There are 30 open OIIG inquiries pending. Thirteen cases have been referred to other enforcement agencies or have otherwise been referred to management for further handling. Seven complaints are pending designation while 16 complaints have been closed administratively following consideration upon intake. The following is a list generally reflecting the issues involved in the recently opened investigations while maintaining the confidentiality of OIIG investigations.

<u>No. of Investigations</u>	<u>Description of Allegations Under Review</u>
5	Manipulation of the hiring/promotion process, including potential unlawful political discrimination;
7	Violation of local, state or federal law (and county policy) in the form of theft, bribery and time fraud;
1	Obstructing <i>Shakman</i> monitoring efforts;
2	Irregularities in contract procurement;
4	Management surveys to assess compliance with law and policy in the areas of mismanagement of resources, administration of drug testing, and child support enforcement.

The OIIG currently has a total of 150 matters under investigation. Thirty of the cases have been opened beyond 180 days of the issuance of this report due to various issues including the nature of the investigation and availability of resources.

During the 2nd quarter of 2010, the OIIG issued 8 Summary Reports. The following is a description of each matter and whether an OIIG recommendation for remediation/discipline has been adopted.

IIG08-0098 Criminal conviction of employee. Disciplinary action confirmed.

IIG09-0079 This investigation involved a consideration of whether a high-ranking official influenced the selection of a vendor resulting in a financial gain to the subject employee. Not sustained. No recommendation for remedial action.

IIG10-0007 An employee of the Health and Hospital System improperly engaged in dual employment and presented false information to Cook County. Disciplinary action was recommended and the employee has been terminated.

IIG10-0019 This matter involved an investigation of several employees engaging in prohibited political activity in the Juvenile Probation Department. This office recommended the imposition of disciplinary action which was adopted by the Office of the Chief Judge.

IIG10-0028 This investigation involved allegations of hiring/promotion irregularities involving the Public Defender's Office. The allegations were not sustained.

IIG10-0035 Allegations were received by this office that an employee of the Forest Preserve District was arrested while driving a Cook County vehicle under the influence of alcohol. This allegation was not sustained.

IIG10-0090 This investigation involved a determination of possible falsification of timekeeping records that was not sustained.

IIG08-0105 This matter involved a comprehensive management survey conducted by this office to ascertain the level of government efficiency and preparedness that resulted in a number of recommendations for a change in policy. This report was issued on June 30, 2010 and is under consideration by Cook County government.

Please also note that several matters that were concluded during the 1st quarter of 2010 and resulted in the recommendation for remedial action were pending at the time of the last report. In IIG10-0009, this office determined that an employee of the Health and Hospitals System had falsified time records, engaged in prohibited political activity and provided false/misleading information to an OIIG investigator. The subject individual's employment has recently been terminated. In IIG10-0020, this office determined that an employee assigned to the Building and Zoning Department engaged in, among other things, conduct involving a conflict of interest in carrying out his official duties. This office issued several recommendations involving

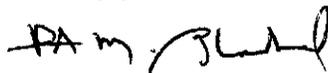
Honorable Todd H. Stroger
and Members of the Board of Commissioners
July 15, 2010
Page 4

the imposition of discipline and a change in policy. I have recently been informed that a decision is pending on the issues.¹

As you may be aware, this office has concluded a number of investigations pertaining to members of this Board and conduct involving unlawful political discrimination in violation of the Code of Ordinances (Ch. 44, Art. II, Section 44-56 "Political Discrimination"). The investigations formed the basis for our recommendation to offer the members of the Board of Commissioners a comprehensive overview of all the issues and related Cook County ordinances and resolutions pertaining to unlawful political discrimination and the appropriate manner in which officials may communicate information concerning employment related matters involving prospective or existing government employees. In May and June, a number of seminars were held and attended by numerous commissioners and/or their staff. If you or any member of your staff were unable to attend, I encourage you to contact me. I will schedule another seminar and/or meet with you and your staff individually to ensure that you have all relevant information concerning these important issues.

Thank you for your time and attention to these issues. Should you have any questions or wish to discuss this report further, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Very truly yours,



Patrick M. Blanchard
Independent Inspector General
(312) 603-0364

¹ Pursuant to section 2-285(e) of the OIG Ordinance, Cook County government is required to respond to such recommendations within 30 days. The subject recommendations were issued on March 23, 2010. We will carefully monitor this issue.