

TODD H. STROGER

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October 18, 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 (3rd 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 July 1, 2010 through September 30, 2010.

In connection with the number of complaints received during the subject reporting period, please be advised that this office has received a total of 116 complaints and a total of 300 complaints in 2010 thus far.¹ Accordingly, please be aware that during the subject reporting period, 30 OIIG 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, 22 have involved an OIIG inquiry prior to closing. There are 18 open OIIG inquiries pending. Five matters have been referred to other enforcement agencies or have otherwise been referred to management for further handling and 13 cases have been referred to the Complaint Administrator pursuant to the Supplemental Relief Order. 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>
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- | | |
|---|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1 | Manipulation of the hiring/promotion process, including potential unlawful political discrimination; |
|---|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|

¹ 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. Conversely, if additional information is developed to warrant the closing of the OIIG Inquiry, the matter will be closed.

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- 3 Violation of local, state or federal law (and county policy) in the form of theft and bribery;
- 1 Irregularities in contract procurement;
- 22 Violation of government policy in the form of dual employment, falsification of records, ethics violations;
- 3 Allegations of sexual/gender harassment and race discrimination.

The OIIG currently has a total of 174 matters under investigation. The number of open cases beyond 180 days of the issuance of this report is 75 due to various issues including the nature of the investigation, availability of resources and prosecutorial considerations.

During the 3rd 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.

IIG10-0017 Investigation and audit into the collections and disbursements in connection with "Jeans Day" fundraiser by the Office of the Clerk of the Circuit Court. This report has been made public by the Clerk of the Circuit Court.

IIG10-0039 Falsification of Cook County employment record involving an employee of the Department of Environmental Control. Discipline action has been recommended although to date has not been imposed. This matter will be monitored and the subject of future commentary should disciplinary action fail to be considered.

IIG10-0075 This investigation related to the unauthorized release of funds by the Accounts Payable Department. A public statement outlining institutional deficiencies and a summary report recommending disciplinary action has been issued. Cook County government has not issued a response to the various recommendations as of this date.

IIG09-0110 This investigation involved allegations of discrimination and harassment (race/ethnicity) by a supervisor in the Forest Preserve District. Although the allegations were not sustained a recommendation for further training was made and carried-out by the FPD.

IIG10-0078 This investigation involved a number of allegations involving the administration of the administrative tow policy by the Forest Preserve District Police Department. The allegations included the targeting of gay individuals and minority groups in applying the administrative tow policy and collection and accounting fraud and

other irregularities in the management of the administrative tow policy. This investigation involved a comprehensive review of all tows by FPD officers, implementation procedures, accounting practices and other issues related to the hearings administered by the FPD police department when a tow is challenged.

A summary report was issued on September 30, 2010 containing 6 recommendations as well as a statement previously issued to this Board addressing discrepancies between the administrative tow ordinance and implementing policy. The following is a summary:

The allegation regarding officers' systematic targeting of identifiable groups was investigated by reviewing the numbers of administrative tows made by these officers. This review revealed that there were 4 officers whose numbers were high in relation to the other officers. However, the numbers of each officer of the four could not be said to be unusually high or that the percentage is the result of intentional acts as opposed to aggressive police work. This is an issue that FPPD management should be cognizant of and monitor very closely. Justification for these arrests both individually and in the aggregate must be monitored.

The allegation regarding administrative tow fines being funneled to perform renovation work at the new Police Department's Headquarters (One Aloha Place) was found to be without merit. Similarly, our investigation failed to support the allegation that collected fines were stolen. However, a number of deficiencies in the procedures used in the collection of the administrative tow fines were identified. Additional recommendations include:

- (a) The Forest Preserve Comptroller's Office is advised to draft written procedures for the collection and accounting of administrative tow fines paid to the Forest Preserve Police Department.
- (b) The police department is advised to cease the practice of permitting one employee to be responsible for the collection of the administrative tow fines. The collection process and procedures should be developed, coordinated and implemented by the Comptroller's Office and replaced by a process that includes two employees processing the fines, appropriate documentation of all payments, which includes receipts and a log that allows for easy tracking and accountability.
- (c) The Forest Preserve Police Department, in conjunction with the Forest Preserve Finance and Administration Office, is advised to amend the fine

payment options by permitting credit or debit cards, certified checks or money orders.

- (d) The Forest Preserve Police Department, in conjunction with the Comptroller's Office is advised to establish a computerized cash register (point of sale system), for all collected administrative tow fines.
- (e) The Forest Preserve Legal Office is recommended to review the language of the Forest Preserve Police General Order 08-01 to ensure consistency with the Forest Preserve Ordinance.

IIG10-0047 On July 19, 2010, this office released a statement to this Board and other elected officials concerning the failure of 183 employees to timely file a statement of economic interest in 2010 in accordance with the Illinois Governmental Ethics Act, 5 ILCS 420/1-101 *et seq.* (2005). Recommendations for the implementation of compliance oversight measures were provided.

IIG09-0074 This investigation involved allegations that an employee in the Department of Risk Management was involved in a scheme to fraudulently submit worker's compensation claims and receive payments from Cook County government without justification. This matter was previously referred to the State's Attorney for prosecutorial consideration. On August 30, 2010 the subject employee was indicted one counts of felony theft and official misconduct. She had previously resigned her Cook County employment.

IIG09-0100 This matter involved allegations that a Health and Hospitals System supervisor violated the Ethics Ordinance when he collected annual "Benjamins" (\$100) on his birthday from subordinate employees. Although there was not an Ethics Ordinance violation, our investigation confirmed the appearance of impropriety in that cash gifts were accepted by the subject supervisor. Because of the potential that such gifts could, minimally, lead to favorable treatment, we have recommended that a policy on gifts be adopted.

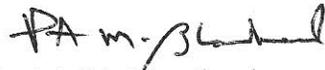
Finally, as you may recall, this office has concluded a number of investigations pertaining to members of this Board and conduct involving unlawful political discrimination in violation of the Code of Ordinances (Ch. 44, Art. II, Section 44-56 "Political Discrimination"). The investigations formed the 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. A number of seminars were held and attended by numerous commissioners and/or their staff. If you or any member of your staff were

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unable to attend, I encourage you to contact me 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

cc: Ms. Karen Crawford, Chief of Staff
Ms. Laura Lechowicz Felicione, Legal Advisor to the President