

TONI PRECKWINKLE

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January 18, 2011

Honorable Toni Preckwinkle
and Members of the Board of Commissioners
of Cook County, Illinois
118 North Clark Street
Chicago, Illinois 60602

Re: Independent Inspector General Quarterly Report (4th Qtr. 2010)

Dear President Preckwinkle 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 October 1, 2010 through December 31, 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 110 complaints and a total of 414 complaints in 2010.¹ For purposes of comparison, the OIIG received 178 complaints in 2008 and 349 complaints in 2009.

Please be aware that during the subject reporting period, 4 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)). The low number of investigations opened this quarter is the result of use of the case inquiry status, as well as the high number of active and time consuming investigations initiated in previous quarters. Additionally, of the recent complaints

¹ As indicated in previous reports, upon receipt of a complaint, an OIIG complaint number is assigned to the contact and a triage/screening process of each complaint is undertaken. We will initiate a formal investigation when appropriate by assigning an OIIG 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 OIIG 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.



received, 17 have involved an OIIG inquiry. There are a total of 70 OIIG case inquiries pending at the present time. Five matters have been referred to other enforcement or prosecutorial agencies for further consideration and 6 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>
3	Violation of local, state or federal law (and county policy) by management level officials
1	Irregularities in contract procurement

The OIIG currently has a total of 166 matters under investigation. The number of open cases beyond 180 days of the issuance of this report is 133 due to various issues including the nature of the investigation, availability of resources and prosecutorial considerations.

During the 4th 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.

IIG10-0122. On October 21, 2010, this office released findings and recommendations following a survey and audit conducted to assess whether W/MBE (Minority-owned and Women-owned Business Enterprises) participation in Cook County contracts coincides with the program goals set forth in the M/WBE Ordinance. This report was made available to the public pursuant to section 2-289(c) of the OIIG Ordinance. The recommended remedial action has been the subject of significant progress undertaken by County officials.

IIG10-0040. A supervisor in the President's Office of Employment Training failed to disclose his familial relationship or otherwise acknowledge his prior association with an applicant prior to interviewing the individual as a panel member and issuing the highest possible interview score. This office determined that the subject employee breached his fiduciary duty to Cook County in violation of the Ethics Ordinance by preventing a fair and honest hiring process. Disciplinary action was recommended. The subject employee has been terminated from County service.

IIG10-0083. A Highway Department employee used his/her position as Parts Manager to fraudulently acquire equipment for personal use thereby committing the offense of theft of government property. Disciplinary action was recommended. The subject employee has been terminated from County service. The OIIG also issued a number of recommendations for the implementation of internal controls to minimize the opportunity for employee theft within the Highway Department. The recommendations are pending.

IIG09-0174. This office determined that a manager in the Highway Department caused the backdating of a Human Resources Personnel Action Form by 6 months for the purpose of making a laid-off former employee subject to recall to Cook County employment. The involved collective bargaining agreement provided for recall rights for a period of 2 years following an employee's termination for budgetary reasons. The laid-off employee was reemployed after the 2 year period pursuant to recall thereby avoiding posting requirements. Each of the involved employees had been terminated. The recommendations to amend policy to prevent similar future occurrences has been adopted.

IIG10-0222. On December 20, 2010, the OIIG issued findings and recommendations concerning a Highway Department Operational Survey. The statement was made available to the public in accordance with section 2-289(c) of the OIIG Ordinance. The remedial recommendations provided are pending.

IIG10-0085. The OIIG investigation determined that a manager in the Human Resources Department engaged in prohibited political activity when she convened a meeting comprised of "exempt" subordinate employees to announce that a fundraiser for President Todd Stroger was being held on October 5, 2010 and that each of the employees was expected to participate by donating a minimum of \$100.00. A "Tribute to Todd Stroger" was held on October 5th at the Excalibur in Chicago. The event was hosted by "Friends of Todd Stroger," a registered and active Political Committee. Suggested sponsorship levels began at \$100.00 while checks were to be made to "Friends of Todd Stroger." Disciplinary action was recommended. The subject employee has been terminated from County service.

IIG09-0087. The OIIG investigation failed to sustain allegations of sexual harassment, hostile work environment and conspiracy to cover-up false reporting in the Forest Preserve District Police Department by supervisory officers.

IIG10-0089. This office determined that a supervisor in the Forest Preserve District misused a county vehicle in violation of FPD policy when he used the vehicle for unrelated FPD business on many occasions for extended periods of time during business hours, non-business hours and weekends. This office collected 32 days of data through the use of an electronic surveillance device (GPS tracker) that revealed, for example, that the subject employee used the vehicle 20 times to travel to his residence, personal business location and political fundraiser, as well as 48 other unrelated non-district related destinations. Disciplinary action was recommended. The subject employee has been terminated from County service. Additionally, institutional recommendations for the amendment and enforcement of the vehicle use policy are pending.

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.

Honorable Toni Preckwinkle
and Members of the Board of Commissioners
January 18, 2011
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Very truly yours,



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cc: Mr. Kurt Summers, Jr., Chief of Staff
Ms. Laura Lechowicz Felicione, Legal Advisor to the President