



Deborah Witzburg | Inspector General
City of Chicago
Office of Inspector General
740 N. Sedgwick St., Ste 200
Chicago, IL 60654
Phone: (773) 478-7799

Statement of the Inspector General to the City Council Committee on Budget and Government Operations

October 18, 2022

Madame Chair and Members of the City Council:

Thank you for the opportunity to appear before the City Council Committee on Budget and Government Operations; I'm honored to do so for the first time since my appointment to serve as the City's Inspector General.

This is a time of change and evolution at the Office of Inspector General, as we build on OIG's powerful legacy in the service of its mission—to promote economy, effectiveness, efficiency, and integrity in the administration of programs and the operation of City government. Our 2023 budget proposal reflects our plans for growth and progress.

In May of this year, OIG underwent a full triennial peer review by the Association of Inspectors General, which found OIG in compliance with all relevant, applicable standards. To date in 2022, OIG's Public Safety section, which is in full compliance with its obligations under the consent decree entered in *Illinois v. Chicago*, has issued seven reports on inquiries into Chicago's police and police accountability agencies, and has examined 870 police misconduct investigations conducted by CPD's Bureau of Internal Affairs and the Civilian Office of Police Accountability. OIG's Audit and Program Review section has issued four reports on effectiveness and efficiency in City programs and operations. We have 224 open criminal and administrative misconduct investigations. OIG's information portal, where we render City data transparent and available to the public, has received more than 42,000 pageviews by nearly 9,000 users.

Looking ahead to 2023, we will restructure our information technology and analytics staff to strengthen our data transparency efforts, complete the reorganization of our intake function to enable more integrative oversight, and add capacity in our Legal and Investigations sections to shorten our investigative timelines and improve our responsiveness—all while continuing the vital work already underway. We will continue to pursue our budget equity goals around formalizing and documenting a Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion-centered perspective of all of OIG's work, and expanding our recruiting efforts and opportunities to foster workforce diversity.

The recommendation for OIG's 2023 budget as it is before you represents a decrease from last year's appropriation of nearly \$2 million—a reduction of nearly 13%. Nonetheless, by identifying opportunities for efficiency and reallocation, we have added 10 new positions which are vital to our strategic and operational priorities. Based on current information, OIG will be funded next year above the mandatory minimum percentage of the City's budget set out in the Municipal Code.

To summarize very briefly the personnel changes reflected in this year's budget proposal:

- We have created a new section for Information Technology and Analytics, moving the personnel devoted to that work out of our Operations section and creating a new position for a Deputy Inspector General for Information Technology and Analytics and several new staff positions.
- We have moved our Intake personnel out of our Investigations section and into a specialized unit with a devoted supervisor in our Legal section.
- We have added three new investigator positions and a new Chief Investigator, to enhance capacity, improve supervisor to staff ratios, and shorten case completion timelines in our Investigations.
- We have added two new Assistant Inspector General positions in our Legal section, to build capacity and ensure the availability of high-quality legal counsel across OIG's work.

I also want to provide an update to the information that's been provided on our personnel vacancies. Our reports show a total of 39 vacancies. Ten of those are the new positions created in this year's budget proposal. Of the remaining 29, we have already filled seven and have three more new employees scheduled to join us at the beginning of next month. We are currently conducting interviews for eight positions, and an additional eight are currently posted.

The new employees OIG will hire in 2023 will join a talented, effective, and increasingly diverse OIG workforce. Since I took office on April 27, 2022, we have hired or promoted people into 38 positions. The information in your budget books is a few weeks out of date; as of early this month, OIG's workforce is 17% Black, up from 13% last year, and 19% Hispanic. Our management team is 27% Black, up from 17% last year, and 14% Hispanic. We are both pleased by the progress those numbers represent in our pursuit of a diverse workforce and cognizant of there being more progress to make.

I look forward to the challenges the next year will bring, and to working in partnership with all of you in pursuit of a City government which more closely resembles the one Chicagoans deserve. Thank you for your time today; I welcome your questions.