



# GOOD GOVERNMENT

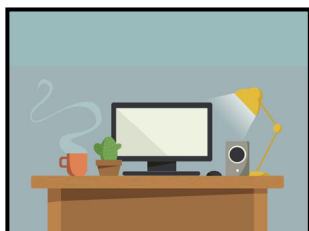
Committed to Honesty and Integrity in City Government

Kamau C. Marable — Editor-In-Chief

## Winter 2023

### In this issue:

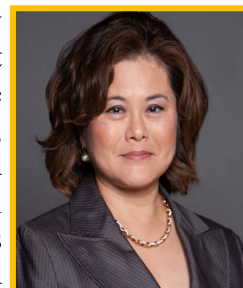
- ◆ From the Desk of the IG...1
- ◆ Employee Spotlight...2
- ◆ Red Flags of Public Corruption...3
- ◆ Department Spot Light...4
- ◆ Around the Inspector General World...5
- ◆ Did You Know...5
- ◆ Dangers of Cyber Fraud...6



## FROM THE DESK OF THE IG

### The Importance of Diversity in Us

We live in a world that is divided by many factors. History has proven that we tend to group and label people based on variations of earned income, color of our skin, gender and gender preferences, religious and ethnic background, educational status, work status, political stances, moral and ethical principles. After all, it is always easier to divide and split the whole than it is to collect and assemble the whole.



IG Ellen Ha

However, it is the differences amongst us that define the beauty of mankind. The fact is, if you want to point out the different characteristics and the distinguishable features of any group of people, you can go on and on until one person stands alone. Even identical twins can be differentiated if you look deep enough.

Imagine if all our physical characteristics were the same, if we lived in a same social and economic environment, dwelled in exact duplicate houses that is furnished in the same manner, wearing the same clothes, eating the same food. Imagine if we all thought alike and had the same political stances, and believed in the same things, because our moral and ethical values are exactly alike. Imagine if all the differences amongst us are obliterated and blended so that we look, feel, and sense the same things. If we become clones, would we finally live in a just world? Would we achieve everyone's dream of living in a peaceful state-of-affairs?



Wouldn't life be fair for all under such condition? With everything being the same and equal, would there be any challenges or difficulties to overcome in life?

With nothing to distinguish us from each other, there would be none to envy or to covet. However, if everyone had the same talent and thoughts, art and culture would lose their respective meaning. It is because we are blessed with diverse talent that art, music, and culture can thrive in so many spectrums and inspire those who are immersed in it.

When we become carbon copies of each other, there would be none who would inspire us. In such sameness, there would be no despair or the pain of being different. However, without diversity, there would be no aspiration or hope to be better or to be different. Being different is not a bad thing, when the differences result in being better.

The differences in us make us unique and diverse from each other. Until we recognize, appreciate, and embrace the diversity in us, it will always divide and separate us. While the differences in us can distinguish us from one another, they in fact make us special to each other. It is the differences amongst us that define the collective beauty and gives us hope and strength for the many things we can achieve together. Diversity within us is important, but it is only as important as we make it.



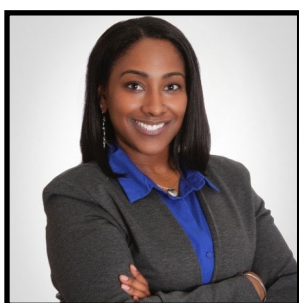
# GOOD GOVERNMENT

Committed to Honesty and Integrity in City Government

## EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT

### MEET...Tiye

By Beverly Murray



Tiye Greene

#### *Tell me about yourself and family.*

This is going to be tough for me because I don't love talking about myself. I am an Associate Attorney with the OIG. I grew up in metro Detroit and I currently live in Southfield. I'm a dog person, really a pet person in general. My background is in intellectual property, corporate transactions and diversity and inclusion.

I have a lot of family in the City. In fact, the bulk of my family lives within City bounds. My father retired from the City of Detroit as it's Income-Tax Director. He served under the Coleman Young and Dennis Archer administrations. My mother retired from the Detroit Public School system after 41 years of teaching. And I have a

brother who is an Automotive Service Tech over in the DFD Fire Apparatus.

#### *What aspect of your new position do you enjoy most?*

So far, the thing I have enjoyed most is digging in and kind of really learning about the City, its different departments, their roles and the structure of it all, as well as the different programs that are going on in the City. As an outsider looking in, you hear about all these different proposals, ordinances and things that are happening but it's just little pieces. Actually working in the City you get a more intimate knowledge and understanding of the City. So learning the mechanics of it all has been very interesting.

#### *Do you have a hidden talent? What is it?*

I like to restore old furniture. I like to pick up an old table, or side table, or nightstand or something like that and redo it.

I think the more surprising thing is that I've assisted in the birth of several litters of puppies. So I think I'd be really good at being something like a puppy midwife.

#### *What is your favorite movie?*

Harlem Nights. I don't think I saw that movie until I was 22 or 23, so I was very late to that party, but it was really good.



Tiye in Morocco

#### *What is the best vacation you have ever taken and why?*

I've got two. My trip to Morocco is probably my best vacation because I was able to cross riding a camel off my bucket list. That was pretty cool. Jamaica, though, is my favorite travel spot. I love the vibe of Jamaica and the culture. It's just the most relaxing place. I ate good. I slept good. The weather was nice. Also, not a single bug touched me. I give a whole lot of points to a place when a bug doesn't touch me.

#### *What is the most important thing you have learned in the last five years?*

Nothing can really replace taking time for family and myself. That sums it up pretty well.



Tiye's Dad, Mom, and Brother



# GOOD GOVERNMENT

Committed to Honesty and Integrity in City Government

## RED FLAGS OF PUBLIC CORRUPTION



### Employee Misconduct

By Jennifer Bentley

Public corruption is a violation of the public's trust by government officials who use their public office for personal gain. It is also a violation of law for any federal, state, or local government official to ask for or receive anything of value in exchange for, or because of, any official act. Some the most serious types of public corruption are bribery, kickbacks, extortion, bid rigging, influence peddling, illegal lobbying, collusion, conflict of interest, and gifts. Corruption erodes the trust we have in our government that they would act in our best interests. It also wastes taxpayer dollars that have been allocated for community projects resulting in poor quality services, infrastructure or we miss out on opportunities of construction projects altogether. Below are red flags that may suggest an employee is accepting something of value in exchange for special treatment.

Red Flags May Include:

- ❑ Sudden and unexplained increase in wealth of the employee and an employee living beyond their means.
- ❑ Inexplicable or mysterious favorable treatment of a contractor or grantee.
- ❑ Employee doing work that is beyond their typical job duties.
- ❑ Costs for services or goods purchased are higher than they should be; unusually high volume of purchases; and inadequate or improper bid process.
- ❑ Procurements over \$25,000 not competitively bid or negotiated; repeated "sole source" awards without documentation; numerous procurements awarded for \$24,999.
- ❑ Poorly performing contractors continue to receive new contracts.

In addition to the red flags listed above, there are other indicators that an employee may be engaging in other types of fraudulent activity.

Red Flags May Include:

- ❑ Public Servants who have control issues and/or are unwilling to share duties.
- ❑ Public Servants who are subject to complaints and/or tend to break the rules.
- ❑ Public Servants who delay providing information or who provide different answers to different people.
- ❑ Public Servants who ask to defer internal audits or inspections to 'properly prepare.'
- ❑ Public Servants who have an unusually close relationship with a vendor or customer.
- ❑ Public Servants who refuse to take vacations.

Disclaimer- these red flags should not be taken alone as evidence that fraud is occurring. However, if you see any of these red flags, contact our office and we will figure it out.



# GOOD GOVERNMENT

Committed to Honesty and Integrity in City Government

## DEPARTMENT SPOTLIGHT

### OFFICE OF CONTRACTS AND PROCUREMENT PARTICIPATES IN TRAINING WITH OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL

By Edyth Porter-Stanley

The Chief Procurement Officer / Deputy Chief Financial Officer, Sandra Stahl, and Deputy Chief Procurement Officer, Toni Stewart-Limmitt asked the OIG to conduct a training session for the Office of Contracting and Procurement (OCP) employees. The presentation included the OIG's history, purpose, and jurisdiction. It also covered the processes through which the OIG receive complaints and initiate investigations and audits. Lastly, we identified several red flags the OCP employees may see that could necessitate an investigation or audit.

We discussed how red flags can be a sign of contractors rigging bids, fixing prices, and/or conspiring with employees, etc. The OCP staff was engaged and asked perceptive questions regarding their role in identifying red flags. Some even asked specific questions about things that they have already seen during the course of their employment with OCP. In two prior training sessions under former CPO Boysie Jackson OCP staff members provided credible information directly following the OIG trainings that resulted in investigations. Accordingly, the OIG would like to thank and recognize Ms. Stahl and Ms. Stewart-Limmitt for the opportunity to meet with the OCP staff. Furthermore, we thank the OCP staff for their cooperation and participation during the trainings.

The OIG welcomes the opportunity to prepare a presentation for any City of Detroit department or division. We will craft the presentation to identify specific types of waste, fraud, abuse, and corruption, as well as the related red flags, specifically relevant to the department or division. To arrange for a presentation, please contact our office at 313-628-2517.



Sandra Stahl, OCP Director

---



# GOOD GOVERNMENT

Committed to Honesty and Integrity in City Government

## AROUND THE INSPECTOR GENERAL WORLD




### Operation Nightingale

By Kelechi Akinbosede

**OPERATION NIGHTINGALE**

**By the Numbers:**

- 7,600+** Fake nursing diplomas and transcripts issued
- 25** Individuals charged
- 5** States: DE, NY, NJ, TX, FL



OIG.HHS.GOV

On January 25, 2023, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Office of Inspector General and several law enforcement partners launched a multi-state law enforcement operation, dubbed "Operation Nightingale," in honor of Florence Nightingale, the founder of modern nursing, against individuals engaged in a scheme to sell false and fraudulent nursing degree diplomas and transcripts. Twenty-five individuals in Delaware, New York, New Jersey, Texas, and Florida were charged for their involvement in the fraud scheme. The alleged scheme involved the selling of fake nursing degree diplomas and transcripts obtained from several accredited Florida-based nursing schools to aspiring Registered Nurse (RN) and Licensed Practical/Vocational Nurse (LPN/VN) candidates. The individuals who acquired the fake nursing credentials would pay as much as \$15,000 for the fraudulent diplomas.

These individuals used the credentials to qualify to sit for the national nursing board exam. Although the individuals still had to take the board exam, the fake credentials allowed them to skip vital steps of the competency and licensure process. Once the individual took and passed the board exam, the nursing applicants became eligible to obtain licensure in various states to work as an RN or a LPN/VN. Once licensed, the individuals were then able to obtain employment in the health care field. The overall scheme involved the distribution of more than 7,600 *fake nursing diplomas and transcripts*. All of the nursing schools involved are now closed as result of the charges.



### DID YOU KNOW?

By KASHA GRAVES

The Office of Inspector General staff maintains credentials on a yearly basis with either the Association of Inspectors General (AIG) or Association of Certified Fraud Examiner (ACFE). The AIG conducts an annual training conference in the fall. Our office hosted the annual conference here in the City of Detroit in 2015. AIG also offers the Inspector General Institute where certification for Inspector General (CIG), Investigator (CIGI), Auditor (CIGA), and Inspector/Evaluator (CIGIA). Our staff members are required to obtain an AIG certification according to their role in the office. Our forensic auditors are required to obtain the certification of Fraud Examiner (CFE) from the ACFE. The AIG/ACFE trainings and conferences provide opportunities for our staff to effectively and efficiently meet our mission of detecting and preventing fraud, waste, abuse, and corruption. To maintain their certifications, the OIG staff is required to obtain 40 CPE credits over each two-year period.

This January the City of Detroit OIG staff along with Detroit Public Schools Community District OIG jointly hosted a two day training in advance interviewing techniques. The training was very informative and highly regarded by both IG staffs. The OIG is constantly seeking to improve our investigative and audit techniques, so that we may better serve the public servants, contractors, and residents of the City of Detroit.





# GOOD GOVERNMENT

Committed to Honesty and Integrity in City Government

## THE DANGERS OF CYBER FRAUD



By April Page

Cyber fraud is on the rise. The most dangerous cyber fraud attacks all begin with an email. Email Scams are often successful because they target the weakest link: people. Despite your efforts and technology to stop scam emails, it only takes one person's lack of vigilance to enable a cyber fraud attack. The impact of cyber fraud can be devastating. Difficulties result when sensitive material like customer information and personally identifiable information is stolen.

There are many different types of cyber fraud, but they all have one thing in common: the use of technology to commit a crime. The most common type is called "*Phishing*". Phishing scams generally center around malicious emails that, at first, look like a legitimate email from trusted contacts. They could be emails containing fake invoices, password renewal requests, messages from HR or leadership, and more.

Business email compromise (BEC) is another type of email cyber crime scam in which an attacker targets business to defraud the company. Employee email compromise is a large and growing problem that targets organizations and public entities. City of Detroit work emails can become a target if employees are not vigilant. If something doesn't feel right, it probably isn't. Employees must trust their instincts and ask, "Would my supervisor actually tell me to do this?" or "Why isn't this supplier submitting an invoice through our portal?" For example, a user may receive an email from a bank or an online financial website instructing them to update passwords by clicking a link. If the email is a phishing email, the link will redirect the user to a site that looks legitimate but has been set up by a cyber attacker. The user then adds their details, which the attacker then uses to gain access to sensitive data and materials.



### What to Do if You Fall Victim or Suspect Cyber Crime:

- ◆ If work related, contact [CyberSecurityTeam@detroitmi.gov](mailto:CyberSecurityTeam@detroitmi.gov) immediately.
- ◆ If personal, contact your financial institution immediately and alert it to the situation.
- ◆ If you disclosed sensitive information in a phishing attack, you should also contact one of the three major credit bureaus and discuss whether you need to place a fraud alert on your file, which will help prevent thieves from opening a new account in your name.