



CITY OF DETROIT OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL

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Inspector General

For Immediate Release: November 3, 2021
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Statement on Inspector General Ha Appearance Before Council Formal Session Today (November 3, 2021)

The purpose of having an Inspector General is to provide a truly independent review of allegations of waste, fraud, or abuse by City employees, without any undue influence or interference. That is what the citizens of Detroit voted for when this Office was created in the 2012 Charter, and that is what they deserve.

Unfortunately, the Corporation Counsel, whose job is to represent the City of Detroit as a whole, has decided that in the case of certain high-level city officials, he will pick sides, choosing to represent the employees during the OIG investigations to “protect” them against a possible OIG inquiry or finding. The conflict there is obvious—an allegation that an employee has engaged in waste, fraud, or abuse is an inquiry into whether they have acted *against* the City’s interests—the very interests the Corporation Counsel is bound by Charter to represent and protect. The Corporation Counsel’s decision to abandon his responsibility to the City and instead attempt to shield employees from OIG investigations is shocking.

I had sincerely hoped that the Corporation Counsel would be willing to meet to discuss these issues, which go to the very heart of the OIG’s independence and integrity. Unfortunately, the Corporation Counsel has refused to meet, instead lobbing insults and criticism at me while offering no legal support for his actions. I remain committed to the principles of independence and integrity that animate my Office, and urge the Corporation Counsel to cease his efforts to meddle in OIG’s investigations going forward.

In light of today's discussion and certain misrepresentations by Corporation Counsel, and for sake of transparency, my office is releasing correspondence detailing our efforts to engage in dialogue with Corporation Counsel on these issues, which I will let speak for itself about my sincere efforts to resolve these concerns.

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