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**Public Comments of the League of Women Voters of Cook County**  
**Re: 24-1055**  
**The 2023 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter Report of the**  
**Cook County Independent Inspector General**  
**February 29, 2024 Meeting of the Cook County Board of Commissioners**

My name is Karin Hribar and I am the Advocacy Chair of the League of Women Voters of Cook County.<sup>1</sup> The League is very concerned that the position of the Cook County Independent Inspector General has not been filled on a permanent basis for over 16 months. Further, our understanding is that a Deputy Inspector General position has been left vacant for even longer in order that the new Inspector General can make the selection.

The former Inspector General, Patrick Blanchard, retired in October of 2022. Since then, the General Counsel of the Inspector General's office, Steven Cyranoski, has ably served as the Interim Inspector General.

Nevertheless, we are concerned that not having two key leadership positions filled on a permanent basis for so many months cannot help but have a detrimental impact on both the work and personnel in this small, but critical office.

The importance of the work performed by the Office of Inspector General is clearly demonstrated by the quarterly reports submitted to this Board, including the 2023 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter Report that is on today's Board agenda as Item # 24-1055.

We know that the Independent Inspector General Search Committee was approved by the Board in September 2022 (File #22-4693). This Search Committee was to have selected a national search firm to then identify 20 qualified candidates and submit the names to the Search Committee. Has this been done yet?

The Search Committee was then to forward the names of 3 top candidates to the Inspector General Selection Committee, composed of Board members.

We know that in July of 2023, an amendment to the ordinance regarding the Inspector General Selection Committee was approved in recognition that there are currently not two Commissioners of the minority party on the Board (File #23-3320). It is this Selection Committee that will be recommending a candidate from the 3 recommended

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<sup>1</sup> The League is a non-partisan political organization which encourages the informed and active participation of citizens in government, works to increase understanding of major public policy issues, and influences public policy through education and advocacy. The Cook County League focuses on county-wide governments and is composed of the over 1600 members of 12 local Leagues in Cook County.

by the Search Committee to be the new Inspector General. We are not aware that the members of this Selection Committee have been appointed yet.

The League would like to know that this process has been moving forward and that the public will soon be hearing about the appointment of a new Inspector General for Cook County. Sixteen months has been too long a wait.