



**Office of the Independent Inspector General**

**FY2019 Budget Presentation**

**October 22, 2018**

Chairman Daley and Members of the Board of Commissioners, ladies and gentlemen:

The mission of the OIIG is to detect, deter and prevent public corruption, fraud, waste, mismanagement, unlawful political discrimination and other forms of misconduct in the operation of Cook County Government and to pursue remedial action in accordance with the OIIG enabling ordinance.

The OIIG is currently staffed with a total of 16 employees. The office consists of the Inspector General, two Deputy Inspectors General, General Counsel, 12 investigators and one Executive Assistant. With this number, the OIIG also staffs a satellite office at the Stroger Hospital campus.

This office recognizes the continued difficult financial concerns facing Cook County Government and appreciates the need to maintain strict fiscal vigilance in the current budget cycle. With that goal in mind, the OIIG has met the established budgetary target amount of \$2,012,780. This was accomplished by reducing five of the OIIG's non-personnel accounts by a total of \$11,600 and strictly limiting requests for funding of three non-personnel accounts which were eliminated in FY2018 - Training, Professional Services and Office Supplies, and the application of the intergovernmental agreement chargeback with the Forest Preserve District. As you may recall, the OIIG and Forest Preserve District utilize a chargeback for professional services rendered by the OIIG up to \$200,000. The chargeback agreement is automatically renewable. Additionally, the OIIG reduced its turnover adjustment rate for personnel from 6% to 3%, which will realistically reflect the office's turnover that has been historically very low.

Historically, this office has operated within a narrow budgetary framework. As you may know, when the office was created in 2008, it was initially budgeted for 22 FTEs (when the county's overall budget was \$3.2 billion). Several years ago, we peaked with a full staff of 20 budgeted positions. Currently, this office holds 17 FTEs (when the county's overall budget is \$5.9 billion). The further streamlining of the OIIG budget comes at a time when our office will be undertaking additional *Shakman* related duties as the District Court considers the parties request for a finding of substantial compliance and various duties of the Office of the Compliance Administrator will be administered through the OIIG going forward.

Although we were able to meet the budgetary target amount this year, as we have done every year, similar budget cuts in coming years will continue to have a

negative impact on our office and reach a point in which further erosion would materially affect the office's ability to meet its mission goals. Therefore, in order to maintain an independent and effective OIIG, we anticipate requesting additional funds in next year's budget cycle to address these concerns. It is in the County's best interest to maintain a strong OIIG to serve the citizens of Cook County by promoting efficiency and effectiveness in the operation of the government. Please keep in mind that our work also triggers savings following recommendations to increase efficiencies, eliminate waste and recover losses due to corruption and fraud. For example, this year we highlighted ways to recover millions of dollars in revenue at the Health and Hospitals System by making improvements to the billing and collection process.

In 2017, the OIIG received a total of 490 complaints for consideration and possible investigative action. Of this number, 177 matters were opened as inquiries, which ultimately resulted in a total of 50 summary investigative reports being issued reflecting 134 recommendations for remedial action. Through the first three quarters of 2018, this office has received 394 complaints for consideration and possible investigative action and issued 48 summary investigative reports containing 79 recommendations for remedial action thus far. The numbers of complaints and case investigations has trended upward in FY 2018. This trend is expected to continue next year.

The OIIG has continued its focus on monitoring contracts, conducting compliance and program reviews and actively seeking to identify areas where efficiencies can be realized. Our investigations and compliance reviews provide positive fiscal outcomes to county operations in addition to producing intangible benefits such as building public trust in government and supporting employee morale.

Thank you for your consideration.