



Office of the Independent Inspector General

FY2020 Budget Presentation

October 30, 2019

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

The proposed budget of the Office of the Independent Inspector General (OIIG) represents a strict economy in consideration of both the overall fiscal concerns of this County as well as the important interests in maintaining an effective and independent OIIG to serve the people of this County. The proposed budget will allow the Office to continue to successfully uncover fraud, waste and public corruption, as well as effectively investigate misconduct and unlawful political discrimination in the operations of Cook County government and pursue remedial action in accordance with the enabling ordinance.

The OIIG is currently staffed with a total of 16 employees with three Investigator III vacancies in the process of being filled. The current office staffing consists of the Inspector General, two Deputy Inspectors General, a General Counsel, 14 Investigators and an Executive Assistant. One investigator is assigned to the OIIG's satellite office at the John H. Stroger, Jr. Hospital campus and two other investigators are assigned to the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago (MWRD) headquarters.

In 2018, the OIIG received and considered a total of 551 complaints for possible investigative action. From this total, 57 summary investigative reports were issued. In FY 2019, as of October 23rd, the OIIG has received 545 complaints and issued 39 investigative summary reports. The number of complaints and case openings in FY2019 has trended upward, and it is anticipated that these numbers will continue at the same rate or higher in FY2020. We believe this trend is directly related to the OIIG's outreach efforts, including those occurring at the MWRD, which include training classes and meetings with employees, as well as the publication of our investigative efforts. This trend highlights the importance of the OIIG maintaining sufficient funding to adequately perform our statutory responsibilities under the OIIG Ordinance.

In April 2019, the MWRD enacted an ordinance designed to promote integrity and efficiency in government and established independent oversight of the District by adopting the provisions of the OIIG enabling ordinance. In May 2019, Cook County and the MWRD finalized an Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) extending the jurisdiction of the OIIG to include the MWRD in substantially the same manner

as exists for Cook County government. Pursuant to the IGA, the MWRD is responsible for the direct and indirect costs associated with the services being provided by the OIIG. As stated above, two OIIG investigators are assigned to the MWRD on a full-time basis while other OIIG staff may also be assigned to MWRD matters on a case-by-case basis.

For a number of years, we have identified a salary disparity in the Deputy IG and General Counsel Grade 24 positions in the OIIG compared with other similar positions in agencies and departments in Cook County government. We sought to address this disparity in the FY2018 and FY2019 budgets, but later eliminated the salary increases to meet budgetary goals established those fiscal years. As part of this budget, we are proposing a 9% increase in the salaries of the two Deputy Inspectors General and the OIIG General Counsel to address this long-standing disparity. This salary correction will also establish a salary separation between these positions and the Investigator V positions that have caught up with the Grade 24 salaries due to step increases applied over the years.

The OIIG will continue to dedicate resources to identify contract improprieties in Cook County government with the goal of detecting fraud and waste that have a material negative effect on Cook County's financial position. These efforts also serve as a deterrent and further promote fair dealing with those who do business with Cook County government.

This office also appreciates the need to maintain strict fiscal integrity in the current budget cycle. Accordingly, we have carefully considered each budget request. With that goal in mind, the OIIG has met its designated target amount of \$2,053,036. Our request of \$1,858,826 is significantly below the target, due to the provision of OIIG services to both the MWRD and Forest Preserve District (FPD). Most of the chargeback funds identified in the budget are related to the provision of investigative services that are billed on an hourly basis by OIIG staff. Indirect costs associated with the provision of services to the MWRD will involve an additional fee of 1.72% of the expenditures for OIIG personnel. Ordinary and necessary expenses incurred will also be reimbursed by the MWRD. Pursuant to the IGA, the MWRD will supply Cook County a retainer in the amount of \$150,000 on a quarterly basis to cover OIIG services.

Thank you for your consideration Chairman Daley and Commissioners.