

Our Authority

The Office of Inspector General was created by the Chicago City Council under the following ordinance:

2-56-010 Establishment—Composition.

There is hereby established an office of the municipal government to be known as the office of inspector general, which shall include an inspector general and such deputies, assistants and other employees as may be provided in the annual appropriation ordinance. (Prior code § 19-1; Added Coun. J. 10-4-89, p. 5726)

2-56-020 Inspector general—Appointment and authority.

The inspector general shall be appointed by the mayor, subject to approval of the city council, and shall have responsibility for the operation and management of the office of inspector general. He shall be appointed for a term of four years. (Prior code § 19-2; Added Coun. J. 10-4-89, p. 5726)

2-56-030 Inspector general—Powers and duties.

In addition to other powers conferred herein, the inspector general shall have the following powers and duties:

- (a) To receive and register complaints and information concerning misconduct, inefficiency and waste within the city government;
- (b) To investigate the performance of governmental officers, employees, functions and programs, either in response to complaint or on the inspector general's own initiative, in order to detect and prevent misconduct, inefficiency and waste within the programs and operations of the city government;
- (c) To promote economy, efficiency, effectiveness and integrity in the administration of the programs and operations of the city government by reviewing programs, identifying any inefficiencies, waste and potential for misconduct therein, and recommending to the mayor and the city council policies and methods for the elimination of inefficiencies and waste, and the prevention of misconduct;
- (d) To report to the mayor concerning results of investigations undertaken by the office of inspector general;

- (e) To request information related to an investigation from any employee, officer, agent or licensee of the city;
- (f) To conduct public hearings, at his discretion, in the court of an investigation hereunder;
- (g) To administer oaths and to examine witnesses under oath;
- (h) To issue subpoenas to compel the attendance of witnesses for purposes of examination and the production of documents and other items for inspection and/or duplication. Issuance of subpoenas shall be subject to the restrictions contained in Section 2-56-040;
- (i) To promulgate rules and regulations for the conduct of investigations and public hearings consistent with the requirements of due process of law and equal protection under the law.

(Prior code § 19-3; Added Coun. J. 10-4-89, p. 5726)

2-56-040 Subpoena issuance and contents—Objections.

The inspector general shall issue subpoenas only if

- (a) he is conducting an investigation authorized by this chapter; and
- (b) the investigation relates to misconduct within the programs and operation of the city government by any person described in Section 2-56-050; and
- (c) the inspector general has a reasonable belief that such misconduct has occurred; and
- (d) the testimony of the witness or the documents or items sought by the subpoena are relevant to the investigation.

A subpoena shall be served in the same manner as subpoenas issued under the Rules of the Illinois Supreme Court to compel appearance of a deponent, and subject to the same witness and mileage fees fixed by law for such subpoenas. A subpoena issued under this chapter shall identify the person to whom it is directed and the documents or other items sought thereby, if any, and the date, time and place for the appearance of the witness and production of the documents or other items described in the subpoena. In no event shall the date for examination or production be less than seven days after service of the subpoena. No later than the time for appearance or production required by the subpoena, the person to whom the subpoena is directed may object to the

subpoena, in whole or in part. The objection shall be in writing, delivered to the inspector general, and shall specify the grounds for the objection. For seven days after receipt of a timely objection to a subpoena, the inspector general shall take no action to enforce the subpoena or to initiate prosecution of the person to whom the subpoena is directed. During this seven-day period, the inspector general shall consider the grounds for the objection and may attempt to resolve the objection through negotiation with the person to whom the subpoena is directed. The seven-day period may be extended by the inspector general in order to allow completion of any negotiations. The extension shall be in writing addressed to the person to whom the subpoena is directed, and shall specify the date on which the negotiation period will end. Negotiations may include such matters as the scope of the subpoena and the time, place and manner of response thereto. The filing of an objection to a subpoena, and negotiations pursuant to an objection, shall not constitute refusal to comply with the subpoena, or interference with or obstruction of an investigation. (Prior code § 19-4; Added Coun. J. 10-4-89, p. 5726)

2-56-050 Conduct of city officers, employees and other entities.

The powers and duties of the inspector general shall extend to the conduct of the following:

- (a) except as limited in this section all elected and appointed officers of the city government in the performance of their official duties;
- (b) except as limited in this section, all employees of the city government in the performance of their official duties;
- (c) all contractors and subcontractors in the providing of goods or services to the city pursuant to a contract;
- (d) business entities in seeking contracts or certification of eligibility for city contracts; and
- (e) persons seeking certification of eligibility for participation in any city program.

Notwithstanding anything to the contrary contained herein, the office of inspector general shall have no power or authority over any member of the city council, any employee or staff person of any member of the city council or any employee or staff person of any city council committee. If the office of inspector general receives

any complaint alleging misconduct, inefficiency or waste against any member of the city council or any employee or staff person of any city council committee, the inspector general shall promptly transmit said complaint to the chairman of the city council committee on committees, rules and ethics, or such successor committee having jurisdiction over said matters. The committee on committees, rules and ethics, or such successor committee, shall conduct an investigation of each complaint referred to it by the office of inspector general. Nothing in this section shall preclude the inspector general from referring a complaint or information concerning a member of the city council or any employee or staff person of any member of the city council or any employee or any staff person of any city council committee to the appropriate federal, state or local law enforcement authorities. (Prior code § 19-5; Added Coun. J. 10-4-89, p. 5726)

2-56-060 Investigation reports.

Upon conclusion of an investigation the inspector general shall issue a summary report thereon. The report shall be filed with the mayor, and may be filed with the head of each department or other agency affected by or involved in the investigation. The report shall include the following:

- (a) A description of any complaints or other information received by the inspector general pertinent to the investigation;
- (b) A description of any illegal conduct, inefficiencies or waste observed or discovered in the course of the investigation;
- (c) Recommendations for correction of any illegal conduct, inefficiencies or waste described in the report;
- (d) Such other information as the inspector general may deem relevant to the investigation or resulting recommendations.

(Prior code § 19-6; Added Coun. J. 10-4-89, p. 5726)

2-56-070 Confidentiality of informants—Exceptions.

The summary report shall not mention the name of any informant, complainant, witness or person investigated, except in the following instances:

- (a) Where the copy of the report given to the head of any department or agency recommends disciplinary action against an employee of that agency;
- (b) Where the copy of the report given to the chief procurement officer makes recommendations concerning any contractor, subcontractor, applicant for a contract, or person seeking certification of eligibility for a contract;
- (c) Where the copy of the report given to the head of a department or agency makes recommendations concerning a person seeking certification of eligibility for a program administered by the department or agency;
- (d) Where the copy given to the mayor recommends disciplinary action against the head or any employee of any executive department or agency.

(Prior code § 19-7; Added Coun. J. 10-4-89, p. 5726; Amend Coun. J. 7-19-00, p. 38206, § 1)

2-56-080 Investigations not concluded within six months.

If any investigation is not concluded within six months after its initiation, the inspector general shall notify the mayor of the general nature of the complaint or information giving rise to the investigation and the reasons for failure to complete the investigation within six months. (Prior code § 19-8; Added Coun. J. 10-4-89, p. 5726)

2-56-090 Cooperation in investigations.

It shall be the duty of every officer, employee, department, agency, contractor, subcontractor and licensee of the city, and every applicant for certification of eligibility for a city contract or program, to cooperate with the inspector general in any investigation or hearing undertaken pursuant to this chapter. Every city contract and every bid, proposal, application or solicitation for a city contract, and every application for certification of eligibility for a city contract or program shall contain a statement that the person understands and will abide by all provisions of this chapter. (Prior code § 19-9; Added Coun. J. 10-4-89, p. 5726)

2-56-100 Retaliation prohibited—Penalty.

No person shall retaliate against, punish or penalize any other person for complaining to, cooperating with or assisting the inspector general in the performance of his office. Any person who

violates the provisions of this section shall be subject to a fine of not less than \$300.00 and not more than \$500.00 for each violation. (Prior code § 19-10; Added Coun. J. 10-4-89, p. 5726)

2-56-110 Files and reports confidential—Public statements authorized when.

All investigatory files and reports of the office of inspector general shall be confidential and shall not be divulged to any person or agency, except to the United States Attorney, the Illinois Attorney General or the State's Attorney of Cook County, or as otherwise provided in this chapter. The inspector general is authorized to issue public statements concerning: (a) an investigation that exonerates an individual who is publicly known to have been under investigation, where the subject requests such a statement; and (b) an investigation that concerns inefficient or wasteful management, as opposed to individual misconduct or illegality. (Prior code § 19-11; Added Coun. J. 10-4-89, p. 5726)

2-56-120 Quarterly reports to city council.

No later than the fifteenth day of January, April, July and October of each year, the inspector general shall file with the city council a report, accurate as of the last day of the preceding month, indicating: the number of investigations initiated since the date of the last report; the number of investigations concluded since the last report; and the number of investigations pending as of the reporting date. The report shall also include the number of investigations of the conduct of employees; the number of investigations of the conduct of appointed officials; the number of investigations of the conduct of elected officials; the number of investigations of the conduct of contractors, subcontractors and persons seeking city contracts; the number of investigations of the conduct of persons seeking certification of eligibility for city contracts or other city programs; the number of investigations involving alleged misconduct; the number of investigations involving alleged waste or inefficiency. (Prior code § 19-12; Added Coun. J. 10-4-89, p. 5726)

2-56-130 Inspector general—Conditions for removal from office.

The inspector general may be removed prior to the expiration of his term only for cause and in accordance with the provisions of this section. The mayor shall give written notice (a) to the city council of

his intent to remove the inspector general; and (b) to the inspector general of the cause of his intended removal. Within ten days after receipt of the notice, the inspector general may file with the city council a request for hearing on the cause for removal. If no such request is made within ten days, the inspector general shall be deemed to have resigned his office as of the tenth day after receipt of the notice of intended removal. If such a request is made, the city council shall convene a hearing on the cause for removal of the inspector general, at which the inspector general may appear, be represented by counsel and be heard. The hearing shall be convened within ten days after receipt of the request therefore and conclude within 14 days thereafter. The mayor's notice of intended removal shall constitute the charge against the inspector general. Removal of the inspector general for cause after the hearing shall require the affirmative vote of a majority of the members of the city council then holding office. (Prior code § 19-13; Added Coun. J. 10-4-89, p. 5726)

**2-56-140 Obstructing or interfering with investigations—
Penalty.**

No person shall willfully refuse to comply with a subpoena issued by the inspector general, or otherwise knowingly interfere with or obstruct an investigation authorized by this chapter and conducted by an announced investigator of the office of inspector general. Any person who willfully violates the provisions of this section shall be subject to a fine of not less than \$300.00 and not more than \$500.00 for each such offense, or imprisonment for a period of not less than 30 days and not more than six months, or both a fine and imprisonment. Each day that a violation continues shall constitute a separate and distinct offense. Actions seeking the imposition of a fine only shall be filed as quasi-criminal actions subject to the provisions of the Illinois Code of Civil Procedure, as amended. Actions seeking incarceration, or incarceration and a fine, shall be filed and prosecuted as misdemeanor actions under the procedure set forth in Section 1-2-1.1 of the Illinois Municipal Code, as amended. (Prior code § 19-14; Added Coun. J. 10-4-89, p. 5726)

2-56-150 Political activities prohibited.

Neither the inspector general nor any employee of the office of inspector general shall engage in any political activity as defined in Chapter 2-156 of the Municipal Code. (Prior code § 19-15; Added Coun. J. 10-4-89, p. 5726)

2-56-160 Violation—Penalty—Discharge or other discipline.

Any employee or appointed officer of the city who violates any provision of this chapter shall be subject to discharge (or such other discipline as may be specified in an applicable collective bargaining agreement) in addition to any other penalty provided in this chapter. (Prior code § 19-16; Added Coun. J. 10-4-89, p. 5726)

2-56-170 Severability.

If any provision, clause, section, part or application of this chapter to any person or circumstance is declared invalid by any court of competent jurisdiction, such invalidity shall not affect, impair or invalidate the remainder hereof or its application to any other person or circumstance. It is hereby declared to be the legislative intent of the city council that this chapter would have been adopted had such invalid provision, clause, section, part or application not been included herein. Nothing contained in this chapter is intended otherwise to alter or amend the rights or obligations of the city or any person affected by this ordinance. (Prior code § 19-17; Added Coun. J. 10-4-89, p. 5726)