



Illinois Chapter Association of Inspectors General

Advancing Professionalism, Accountability & Integrity

Newsletter

Message from Kathryn Richards [Illinois AIG Chapter](#) Board President

Inspector General for the Chicago Housing Authority

Greetings Chapter Members,

As our recent Spring 2024 training seminars showed, Illinois Chapter members possess a true wealth of knowledge and experience. Part of the Illinois Chapter's mission is to help members connect and share this expertise so together we can continue to improve government oversight in Illinois.

If you or someone in your office would like to share insights into a particular case study, investigative method or strategy, emerging oversight issue, or any other topic you think Chapter Members would like to learn about, you can share this information in two ways.

First, you can volunteer to present in a future Illinois Chapter training seminar by contacting our training committee members, Stephanie.Snow@illinois.gov, Christine.Benavente@illinois.gov, and Christopher.Duffin@cookcountyil.gov.

You can also contribute a guest post to a future chapter newsletter by contacting communication committee members Nick Infusino njinfusino@cpsoig.org and Melissa Villa mvilla@igchicago.org.

I look forward to hearing more about all the great, innovative work you and your offices do throughout Illinois!

Board Meeting Schedule: June 5, 2024; August 7, 2024; October 2, 2024; December 4, 2024. Simply email me directly at krichards@thecha.org to be added to the Outlook calendar invite list.



[CHA Inspector General 2024 First Quarter Report Is Hot Off the Press!](#)

The OIG's first quarterly report for 2024 displays all the work it has completed in the first three months of this year. As a result of five OIG criminal investigations, CHA has received \$246,037 in restitution orders. \$99,940 of the ordered restitution paid has been returned to the CHA Finance Department and will be distributed for use in CHA's continued work. Also, OIG had three criminal indictments issuing from investigations of fraud on the HCV program.

Five administrative investigations were sustained with discoveries of misconduct against CHA program participants, employees, vendors, and Section 3 contractors.

The OIG's Audit of Rent Collection at CHA's Mixed Finance/Mixed Income Properties identified major deficiencies in the Mixed-Finance property owners' systems for recording CHA tenant rent receipts and corresponding deposits to CHA's tenant rent reserve bank accounts.

[Read more here](#)

[Former HCV Participant Convicted of Fraud](#)

Catherine Brown, a former HCV participant, was sentenced in the Circuit Court of Cook County to 48 months' probation and ordered to pay \$136,000 in restitution. Brown was charged with one count of theft of governmental property over \$100,000, a Class X felony, and three counts of forgery, Class 3 felonies.

Prior to sentencing, Brown made two restitution payments totaling \$50,000 to the CHA. The remaining amount of \$86,000 was ordered to be paid by monthly payments of \$1,791.67.

The OIG investigated Catherine Brown and discovered that from October 2006 through July 2017, Brown received housing benefits totaling over \$136,000 while residing in a home that she jointly owned with her parents. During this time, Brown was the account signatory on both the P.O. Box and the bank account where the Housing Assistance Payments (HAP) intended for Brown's landlord were sent. She also neglected to report her husband as a household member, and his income, to the CHA.

Added to Brown's ownership of her property, she failed to report that she was renting her HCV unit from her parents. This is a violation of CHA's family obligations and caused CHA to experience an additional loss of nearly \$57,000 from September 2000 to September 2006.

[Read more here](#)

[Audit of Rent Collection at CHA's Mixed Finance/Mixed Income Properties](#)

OIG's latest audit identified numerous deficiencies in property owners' practices in recording CHA tenant rent payments and their equivalent rent deposits to CHA's bank accounts.

The OIG found that \$289,720 in rent was collected but never deposited into the CHA's Tenant Rent Reserve bank accounts. During the audit period, OIG also discovered discrepancies between Mixed-Finance rent records reflected in Yardi, owner ledgers, and the CHA bank deposits. This made it impossible to verify accurate rent balances for CHA tenants at numerous properties.

[Read more here](#)



[CPS Inspector General Releases FY 2023 Annual Report](#)

The Illinois Tollway, Office of the Inspector General released its most recent Semi-Annual Summary Activity Report on March 29, 2024. The report, as well as previous Semi-Annual Summary Activity Reports and Redacted Investigative Summary Reports, are available online [here](#) (see "OIG Reports" section of webpage).



[City of Chicago OIG Releases First Quarter 2024 Report](#)

This quarterly report provides an overview of the operations of the City of Chicago Office of Inspector General (OIG) from January 1, 2024 - March 31, 2024.

OIG closed 2023 with critical progress and success in a number of areas of our work. Among other things, we achieved full and effective compliance with the consent decree entered in Illinois v. Chicago, making us the first and only component of City government to do so. We closed 139 disciplinary investigations in 2023 and, in the fourth quarter, reduced our count of cases opened for more than one year by nearly a third. We undertook dramatically more frequent and more rigorous enforcement of the City's Ethics rules, and filled nearly every single personnel position in OIG's budget. We meaningfully engaged with Chicago's communities about our work and did substantive, human-centered fieldwork in the service of our policy work. We have continued to build on this work in the first quarter of 2024.

OIG received 2,149 intakes, has 213 active investigations, initiated 30 investigations, and concluded 31 investigations.

[Read more here](#)

[OIG First Quarter 2024 Report for Public Building Commission](#)

This quarterly report provides an overview of the operations of the City of Chicago Office of Inspector General as they relate to the Public Building Commission of Chicago (PBC) from January 1, 2024 - March 31, 2024.

OIG received one new complaint and has two active investigations related to PBC.

[Read more here](#)

[Public Safety 2024 Outlook on Police Oversight and Accountability](#)

The Public Safety section of OIG works to improve the effectiveness, accountability, and transparency of the Chicago Police Department (CPD) and Chicago's police accountability agencies, and to transform the critical relationship between CPD and the communities it serves.

This Public Safety report outlines potential projects under consideration for 2024.

[Read more here](#)

[OIG Audit and Program Review 2024 Annual Plan](#)

The OIG Audit and Program Review (APR) section supports the OIG mission by conducting independent, objective analysis and evaluation of municipal programs and operations, issuing public reports, and making recommendations to strengthen and improve the delivery of public services.

This Annual Plan outlines potential projects under consideration for 2024.

[Read more here](#)

Processing the Backlog of Background Investigations for Chicago Police Department Applicants

OIG reviewed the Office of Public Safety Administration's (OPSA) policies and practices relevant to the processing of background investigations for CPD applicants and the Police Board's (the Board) rules and practices for processing appeals from CPD applicants who are disqualified due to OPSA's findings during their background investigations.

The objectives of this inquiry were to identify factors that have contributed to the current backlog of unprocessed background investigations, OPSA's plans for addressing the backlog and otherwise optimizing the background investigation stage of the hiring process, and whether the backlog of background investigations has impacted CPD's stated goals of diverse hiring.

[Read more here](#)

Department of Family and Support Services' Strategic Contracting Follow-up

OIG completed a follow-up to its August 2022 audit of the Department of Family and Support Services' (DFSS) Strategic Contracting.

The purpose of OIG's 2022 audit was to determine whether DFSS' contracting processes align with the Department's Commitment to Outcomes, in which the Strategic Contracting process plays a part. In August 2023, OIG followed up on its August 2022 audit of DFSS' Strategic Contracting. DFSS responded by describing the corrective actions it has taken and providing supporting documentation.

[Read more here](#)

Advisory Concerning the City's Complaint-Based Approach to City Services

To support the coordination of the City's service delivery strategy, this advisory summarizes OIG's encounters with inefficient complaint-based service provision and suggests improvements to promote a balance between complaint-based and proactive approaches.

Across its past work, OIG has identified recurring instances of inefficiency resulting from an imbalance between proactive and reactive service delivery. Specifically, the City's primary use of 311 complaints to allocate resources has had negative impacts on the long-term cost, safety, and equity of City services. In December 2023, OIG advised the Mayor's Office of these observations and suggested that City departments develop and document service delivery strategies based on considerations of need, risk, and multi-year budget planning.

[Read more here](#)

OIG Listening Tours

OIG's Listening Tours are designed to gather community input to give ideas on where we should focus our attention. The survey is designed to reach the broadest swath of Chicagoans, with geographic equity across the City. It's an individual, "person-on-the-street" approach to speak with as many people as possible.

We invite you to take the four-question survey and let us know your thoughts.

[Survey linked here](#)

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**AIG Certified Inspector General Institute
August 12-16, 2024**

Start spreading the news, the AIG Inspector General Institute is coming to New York City on August 12-16, 2024. The Institute will take place at John Jay College of Criminal Justice. Space is very limited.

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For more information, [click here](#) or contact AIG Executive Director Michael Castrilli at mjcastrilli@inspectorsgeneral.org.



City of Chicago Office of Inspector General

Investigative Analyst
Front-End Developer (Senior Information Analyst)

Chicago Board of Education Office of Inspector General

Senior Investigator - General Investigations Unit
Assistant Inspector General, Sexual Allegations Unit

Office of the Inspector General, Department of Children and Family Services

Assistant Director, CWEL Investigations
Internal Investigations Manager- PSA Opt 8L
Technical Advisor II (Officer of Inspector General Investigations Attorney)



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