



# Illinois Chapter Association of Inspectors General

*Advancing Professionalism, Accountability & Integrity*

## Newsletter

### **Message from Illinois AIG Chapter Communications Committee**

Nick Infusino, Assistant Inspector  
General, Chicago Board of Education  
Office of Inspector General

Melissa Villa, Deputy Inspector  
General IT and Analytics, City of  
Chicago Office of Inspector General

Bradley Snyder, Associate General  
Counsel, City of Chicago Office of  
Inspector General

Greetings Chapter Members,

Once again, the AIG Illinois Chapter will be polling its members about topics they'd like to see covered in Chapter training seminars in 2026. We had an excellent response rate for last year's poll, which helped the Illinois Chapter seek out timely and impactful presentations for its members. You should receive the 2026 poll form in early February, and we hope that you'll take a few minutes to fill it out.

Upcoming Illinois Chapter board meetings: April 1, 2026; June 3, 2026; August 5, 2026; October 7, 2026; December 2, 2026. Simply email Board President Kathryn Richards at [krichards@thecha.org](mailto:krichards@thecha.org) to be added to the Outlook calendar invite list.



### **Office of Inspector General for the Chicago Board of Education 2025 Annual Report**

On January 7, 2026, the Office of Inspector General for the Chicago Board of Education publicly released its Fiscal Year 2025 Annual Report, summarizing its investigations and other matters reported to the Chicago Board of Education between July 1, 2024, and June 30, 2025.

Significant cases covered in this year's report include the investigation of sexual misconduct committed by several employees against students and recent graduates at one high school campus, including one employee who was ultimately sentenced to 22 years in prison for his conduct; a CPS administrator who engaged in a multiyear phony billing scheme with a District vendor; a District program manager who repeatedly falsified federal grant applications, leading the U.S. Department of Education to ultimately require that CPS pay more than \$1,000,000 back to the federal government; and principals who defrauded pandemic relief programs, including the Paycheck Protection Program, as well as State of Illinois

pandemic-related rental-assistance programs.

Read the OIG's annual report [here](#).



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### Chicago Housing Authority Office of Inspector General 2025 Annual Report – Transparency in Action!

The OIG experienced a highly active and impactful year, and we're pleased to highlight several key accomplishments. Our Investigative team secured 4 criminal convictions, obtained 9 indictments, and achieved \$345,531 in restitution ordered to the CHA. Meanwhile, the Audit team published 3 audits that flagged issues with contractor IT access, Public Housing work order management, and how private property managers handle unit turns.

We ended the year with our triennial Peer Review by the Association of Inspectors General. The Peer Review found the OIG to be following all necessary professional standards and practices.

The OIG continues to expand our outreach efforts across the agency. We participated in the Learning Lab, hosted our annual Open House, participated in various CHA events, and much more.

Read about all the work the OIG has done in 2025 by clicking the [link](#).



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### Cook County Office of the Independent Inspector General Fourth Quarter 2025 Report

The Cook County, Office of the Independent Inspector General released its Quarterly Report for the fourth quarter of the year on January 15, 2026. The report is available online [here](#).

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## [City of Chicago Office of Inspector General Releases Fourth Quarter 2025 Report](#)

This quarterly report provides an overview of the operations of the City of Chicago Office of Inspector General (OIG) from October 1, 2025 through December 31, 2025.

This quarter, OIG reported on investigations which led to recommending the termination of five City employees—including one who spent hours of City time at a social club and another who fabricated an on-duty injury to get workers' compensation, and three cases in which the Board of Ethics found probable cause to believe that the subject of an OIG investigation broke the City's ethics rules.

[Read more here](#)

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## [Chicago Police Department Data Dashboard Showing Reported Crimes and Clearance Rates Across Chicago](#)

The City of Chicago Office of Inspector General has published a new dashboard that allows users to search and explore City of Chicago data on reported crimes, including what kinds of crimes are being reported and where, and the rates at which the Chicago Police Department is solving or clearing criminal investigations. Data can be sorted and viewed by types of data, such as crime counts and clearance rates, and by percentage change to view trends over time. Geographic categories include Citywide or breakdown by District, Beat, and Community Area.

[View dashboard here](#)

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## [Chicago Police Department Complaint Register Network data dashboard](#)

The City of Chicago Office of Inspector General (OIG) has published a Chicago Police Department (CPD) Complaint Register Network data dashboard, allowing users to view complaints against CPD sworn members in relationship to others with whom they have been co-accused. This dashboard augments OIG's existing suite of Public Safety Complaints and Notifications dashboards on OIG's Information Portal, where users already can search by name or star number to view complaints against individual sworn members. The CPD Complaint Register Network dashboard features a visual representation of the relationships among individual CPD members who have been co-accused of wrongdoing or rule violations two or more times on a single complaint, or Complaint Register.

[View dashboard here](#)

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## [Advisory Concerning Overtime Payments to Ineligible Employees](#)

The City of Chicago Office of Inspector General (OIG) analyzed a Department of Human Resources (DHR) provided list of City titles and their relevant Fair Labor Standards Act (FLSA) statuses alongside relevant collective bargaining agreements and determined that, from 2020 through 2024, the City paid \$26.5 million in overtime to potentially ineligible employees.

In its response to OIG's advisory, DHR and Department of Finance (DOF) acknowledged the need for "additional steps" to prevent overtime payments to ineligible employees. They identified corrective actions in pursuit of that goal and committed to collaborate with each other in order "to implement measures to ensure the City is not paying overtime to ineligible employees."

[Read more here](#)

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### **Recommendation to Inform and Improve the Chicago Police Department's Rule 47**

The Public Safety section of the City of Chicago Office of Inspector General (OIG) recommends measures to inform and improve investigations conducted by the Chicago Police Department's (CPD) Bureau of Internal Affairs (BIA) into alleged violations of CPD's Rule 47.

CPD's Rules and Regulations includes its Rules of Conduct, which serve to inform its members of conduct prohibited by the Department. Rule 47 prohibits members from "[a]ssociating or fraternizing with any person known to have been convicted of any felony or misdemeanor, either State or Federal, excluding traffic and municipal ordinance violations." During its regular review of closed disciplinary investigations conducted by BIA, OIG identified inconsistencies across investigations in BIA's analyses of the relationship between the accused CPD member and the individual convicted of a felony.

[Read more here](#)

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### **Chicago Police Department's Response to Hate Crimes and Hate Incidents**

Pursuant to the Municipal Code of Chicago (MCC) §§ 2-56-030 and -230, the Public Safety section of the Office of Inspector General (OIG) conducted an inquiry into the Chicago Police Department's (CPD or the Department) response to hate crimes and hate incidents.

OIG concluded reports of hate crimes in Chicago have risen and remained at a higher rate since 2022. It is imperative that the City ensure that its responses to hate crimes and hate incidents reflect current best practices. Additionally, ensuring that information and resources are accessible to communities is crucial, given that research suggests that reported hate crimes do not depict the full picture of hate crime victimization in the city. In this inquiry, OIG found that CPD has made recent efforts to improve public information on hate crime reporting but should examine areas where it could provide more current or accurate

information, such as regarding resources for victims of hate crimes or specialized information tailored to Chicago's distinct communities.

[Read more here](#)

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### **Chicago Police Department's Discipline Implementation, Options, and Recordkeeping**

The Public Safety section of the City of Chicago Office of Inspector General (OIG) assessed whether finalized disciplinary actions imposed on Chicago Police Department (CPD) members are fully and consistently implemented and recorded, and whether the exercise of "options to suspension" impacts the implementation, consistency, and fairness of final discipline.

OIG found that CPD's recording of its implementation of final discipline in Citywide personnel and payroll databases was inconsistent (e.g., if a suspension has been implemented—in other words, a member has served a suspension—there ought to be data regarding the suspension in the member's personnel file along with an associated deduction of pay in the relevant Citywide databases, but OIG found that the necessary information in both databases was not reliably recorded), and was most incomplete for reprimands and suspensions.

[Read more here](#)

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### **Advisory Concerning Personal Service Contract Requests and Contractor Policy Violations**

The City of Chicago Office of Inspector General (OIG) reported the City of Chicago has laws and policies prohibiting the City from basing employment decisions, including hiring decisions, on political factors in most circumstances. This prohibition covers not only the hiring of City employees, but also the City's use of contractors who perform services for the City. Thus, City departments seeking to use contractors must comply with several provisions of the City of Chicago Hiring Plan Contractor Policy, to ensure compliance with this prohibition on the use of political reasons and factors.

Among these are a requirement that all contracts include the "2014 Hiring Plan Prohibitions," which generally provide that City employees may not direct a contractor to hire any particular individual, nor may City employees encourage individuals to apply for a job with a contractor. Moreover, the Prohibitions state that contractors will not consider political reasons in hiring personnel to work on a City contract. All contracts must also include a term establishing the contractor's duty to cooperate with OIG in any inquiries related to the contract. The Contractor Policy further requires all City employees who participated in the City contractor selection process sign a "Contractor Selection Certification" that affirms "no political reasons or other improper considerations influenced the selection of the Contractor." Finally for purposes of this matter, the Contractor Policy requires that City departments obtain prior written approval to retain Personal Service Contractors—individuals engaged directly by

the City to perform services—from both the City of Chicago Department of Human Resources (DHR) and the Office of Budget and Management (OBM).

OIG notified DHR that between January 1, 2024, and May 14, 2025, it reviewed 192 requests to use Independent Contractors under the City of Chicago Hiring Plan Contractor Policy and that 190 of those requests violated the Contractor Policy. In particular, 189 of the contracts did not include the 2014 Hiring Plan Prohibitions yet were approved by DHR anyway. Additionally, 189 of the contracts did not include the Contractor Selection Certifications yet were approved by DHR anyway. Another 190 of the contracts were not approved by OBM in addition to DHR, as required by the Contractor Policy. Furthermore, 155 of the contracts were approved by DHR after a department or official had already entered into a fully executed agreement with a contractor.

[Read more here](#)

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### **[Follow-up to OIG’s Audit of Chicago Department of Public Health’s Construction and Demolition Debris Recycling Enforcement](#)**

The City of Chicago Office of Inspector General (OIG) has completed a follow-up to its June 2023 audit of Chicago Department of Public Health’s (CDPH) Construction and Demolition (C&D) Debris Recycling Enforcement.

In August 2025, OIG inquired about corrective actions taken by CDPH in response to the 2023 audit. Based on CDPH’s follow-up response, OIG concludes that CDPH has fully implemented one corrective action and has not implemented seven corrective actions. Specifically, CDPH worked with relevant City departments and established the C&D debris management fund. The City transferred into the fund unallocated fees and fines collected prior to its creation. As of October 16, 2025, the C&D debris management fund contained \$2.8 million.

[Read more here](#)

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### **[Recommendations to Reopen Chicago Police Department Misconduct Investigation](#)**

Pursuant to the Municipal Code of Chicago (MCC) § 2-56-230(c) (ii), the Public Safety section of the City of Chicago Office of Inspector General (OIG) conducts reviews of individual closed disciplinary investigations conducted by the Civilian Office of Police Accountability (COPA) and the Chicago Police Department’s (CPD) Bureau of Internal Affairs (BIA). Based on those reviews, OIG may make a recommendation to reopen the investigation to address a deficiency materially affecting its outcome.

From November 2025 to January 2026, OIG recommended that 10 investigations be reopened. For more information on recommendations and outcomes, please visit [igchicago.org](https://www.igchicago.org).

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**Did you know that Forest Glen was the Community Area with the largest percent decrease in reported crimes from 2024 to 2025?**

Forest Glen had 406 reported crimes in 2025, a 25.1% decrease from 542 reported crimes in 2024 and the largest percent decrease among all City of Chicago Community Areas.

For more information view the [OIG CPD Reported Crimes Dashboard](#).

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[programsupport@inspectorsgeneral.org](mailto:programsupport@inspectorsgeneral.org)

**Save the Date!**

**2026 AIG Annual Training Conference**

When: October 28-30, 2026

Where: Hilton Miami Downtown, Miami, Florida

More information to come!



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**City of Chicago - Inspector General**

[Inspector General](#)

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**Illinois Secretary of State Office of Executive Inspector General**

[Inspector II \(DuPage County\)](#)

[Legal Advisor II \(Attorney\) \(Springfield\)](#)

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**Clerk of the Circuit Court of Cook County, Office of the Inspector General**

[Inspector General Investigator](#)

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## Legal Briefs

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**Bradley Snyder**  
**Associate General Counsel for Investigations**  
**City of Chicago Office of Inspector General**  
[bsnyder@igchicago.org](mailto:bsnyder@igchicago.org)

This quarter's Legal Briefs column discusses artificial intelligence (AI) policies for offices of inspector general. As AI becomes increasingly prevalent in daily life and the government workplace (the AI-use inventory maintained by U.S. Chief Information Officers Council shows that AI use [is rapidly expanding in the federal government](#)), it's worth considering AI-specific policy guidance for staff. I recently moderated a panel discussion, *Current Legal Issues in Inspector General Work and the Benefits of Peer*

*Work Groups*, at the 2025 Association of Inspectors General Annual Training Conference, and the panel discussed development of AI policies for offices of inspector general. This column addresses a few of the highlights of that discussion.

AIG's [\*Principles and Standards for Offices of Inspector General\*](#) (Green Book) does not explicitly address use of AI, but Green Book standards for confidentiality and quality control are highly relevant to an AI policy. For policy considerations specific to AI use, federal guidance can be a helpful reference point. Executive Order 13960, [\*Promoting the Use of Trustworthy Artificial Intelligence in the Federal Government\*](#) (Dec. 3, 2020), encourages federal agencies to use AI “where the benefits of doing so significantly outweigh the risks, and the risks can be assessed and managed.” The order sets forth principles for AI use, including that it must be accurate and reliable; inputs and outputs of AI applications should be “well documented and traceable, as appropriate and to the extent practicable”; and agencies should be transparent with stakeholders about its use.

It's important for an AI policy to clearly define what it applies to. Executive Order 14110, [\*Safe, Secure, and Trustworthy Development and Use of Artificial Intelligence\*](#) (Oct. 30, 2023, revoked Jan. 20, 2025, by EO 14148), defines AI as “a machine-based system that can, for a given set of human-defined objectives, make predictions, recommendations, or decisions influencing real or virtual environments.” The order also provides a helpful definition of “Generative AI,” which is a type of AI model that “emulate[s] the structure and characteristics of input data in order to generate derived synthetic content,” including images, videos, and text. Many publicly available AI tools are examples of generative AI, including ChatGPT, Grok, Google Gemini, Microsoft Copilot, DALL-E, Grammarly, Google Translate, and Otter.ai. When defining AI—even if a policy generally prohibits use of AI—it can be helpful to provide an inclusive list of AI tools as examples.

Also, it is worth considering how a policy's definition of AI may interact with tools that staff already use. Popular search engines, including Google and Bing, automatically include a generative AI summary in search results. Additionally, many common applications, including Adobe Acrobat, Canva, and the Microsoft Office Suite are beginning to incorporate generative AI functions. One way to account for such programs is to create a list of specific, office-approved AI tools with limited and defined uses while prohibiting all unapproved AI tools and applications

Caution around use of publicly available AI tools is warranted because of the confidentiality surrounding much of an office of inspector general's work. The Green Book requires protection of confidential information, and confidentiality requirements serve as an important independence protection for offices of inspector general. The consumer versions of many, if not most, publicly available AI tools offer little to no confidentiality. When a user inputs information into the public version of Chat GPT, for example, the [\*terms of use\*](#) allow Open AI to keep that information to “provide, maintain, develop, and improve” its services. Accordingly, an office AI policy should generally prohibit inputting confidential information into a publicly available AI tool, though an office might consider allowing certain non-confidential uses (such as creating a holiday party invitation).

If an office allows use of AI, consider incorporating expectations regarding quality control, consistent with Green Book standards requiring that offices “establish policies and procedures to ensure adequate quality control over [their] work.” Green Book, p. 23. Generative AI models are prone to “hallucination”—a euphemistic way of stating that they will provide false information and assert it as factually accurate; a [\*number of Illinois attorneys\*](#) have recently learned about this the hard way. Additionally, even if output from an AI tool is not factually incorrect, it can be biased, because the data used to develop AI models may reflect underlying societal inequities and biases. Therefore, if an office uses AI tools, it is worth considering policy language making clear that staff are ultimately responsible for reviewing and understanding AI outputs.

If your office is in the process of developing an AI policy or revising its current policy, it may be worth reviewing the Illinois Attorney Registration and Disciplinary Commission's (ARDC) recent guidance regarding the [Illinois Supreme Court's Policy on Artificial Intelligence](#). The ARDC's [Guide to Implementing AI](#) contains two resources that are informative, though not necessarily a perfect fit for an office of inspector general. First, the guide contains a checklist of considerations for evaluating the terms of use for a third-party AI tool. Second, the guide contains an example AI policy for law offices, which similarly have significant confidentiality obligations.

*Information in this column is for general information purposes only and does not constitute legal advice.*

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