



Illinois Chapter Association of Inspectors General

Advancing Professionalism, Accountability & Integrity

Newsletter

Message from Illinois AIG Chapter Communications Committee

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Greetings Chapter Members,

Once again, we're happy to report that more than 100 of you completed our second annual member training survey. Based on your input, the Illinois Chapter has identified the following topics as the ones chapter members are most interested in learning about in 2026:

- Data Analysis
- Investigative Interviews
- Legal Issues
- Writing Skills
- Data Visualization

As always, the AIG Illinois Chapter will strive to offer you timely, relevant, and useful training seminars that meet the needs and interests of Illinois's IG community.

On that note, please be sure to join us on **May 15 and May 22, 2026**, for our Spring Training Seminars. You can read more about the first of these sessions and register [here](#).

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



Integrity in Action – First Quarter Highlights

This quarter, the OIG resolved seven investigations. One found no violations, and the other six were closed with OIG recommendations to improve program enforcement and keep CHA operations running efficiently.

OIG analytics supported CHA processes by detecting gaps in internal processes and helping to ensure CHA uses its resources to follow program eligibility requirements.

Complaints submitted to our office continued to rise this quarter, averaging about 124 each month. This increase shows that more people understand the OIG's role and trust us to assess concerns about fraud, waste, abuse, and misconduct.

The OIG hosted three presentations that provided training for HCV participants, newly elected public housing resident leaders, and CHA employees on ways to identify and report fraud, waste, abuse and misconduct.

Please read the full report [here](#).

CHA Contractors' IT System Access Audit

The CHA OIG audit team took an in-depth look at how contractors were given access, had their access removed, and used CHA's information technology systems from 2022 to 2023. The audit focused on individual HCV and PPM contractors' access and permissions in CHA's two main software platforms, Microsoft Azure and Yardi Property Management.

Segregation of duties continued to be a primary area of concern, and the OIG outlined risks along with recommendations for both HCV and Public Housing contractors. The audit showed that some contractors have overly broad access, duties are not well separated, and the auditing and monitoring tools need improvement.

CHA management concurred with the findings and most recommendations. Both HCV and PAM Divisions will review existing user group configurations and modify or develop new security groups that align with segregation of duty and access control requirements. Contractors will also be reminded of existing policies and best practices for IT security and password management.

Read the full audit [here](#).



OIG's 2025 Annual Report and First Quarter 2026 Report

The Cook County OIG recently released its Annual Report for calendar year 2025 and its first quarterly report for 2026.

Read the annual report [here](#) and the quarterly report (as well as past quarterly reports) [here](#).



Illinois Tollway Semi-Annual Summary Activity Report

The Illinois Tollway, Office of the Inspector General released its most recent Semi-Annual Summary Activity Report on March 31, 2026. 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 the webpage.



Mayor Brandon Johnson Announces Appointment of David Glockner as City of Chicago Inspector General

David Glockner has spent decades leading oversight efforts in the public and private sectors. A Chicago resident of more than 40 years, Glockner brings extensive experience leading investigations, audits, and integrity programs within both the public and private sectors.

Mayor Johnson's selection is subject to approval by the City Council.

[Read more here](#)

City of Chicago Office of Inspector General Releases First Quarter 2026 Report

This quarterly report provides an overview of the operations of the City of Chicago Office of Inspector General (OIG) from January 1, 2026 through March 31, 2026.

This quarter, OIG reported on the Chicago Police Department's (CPD) mishandling of its investigation into the death of an individual struck by a vehicle driven by a Chicago Fire

Department (CFD) member. OIG reported a sprawling investigation into time falsification, drinking alcohol on the clock, and failure to adequately supervise which resulted in findings against 14 City employees, many of whom were drinking in bars when they should have been working at O'Hare International Airport. OIG reported 10 sustained investigations into Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) loan fraud, nine of them into current or former CPD members and one into a City Council employee.

[Read more here](#)

Audit and Program Review Section 2026 Annual Plan

The Office of the Inspector General (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.

The Annual Plan is used to identify potential projects for the upcoming fiscal year. Projects are selected based on OIG's prioritization criteria.

[Read more here](#)

Public Safety 2026 Outlook on Police Oversight and Accountability

The Public Safety section of the Office of the Inspector General (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.

The 2026 project list is intended to serve as a guiding document and is subject to change. Projects are listed in categories corresponding to the Public Safety section's strategic priorities.

[Read more here](#)

Audit of the City Council Office of Financial Analysis' Reporting Requirements

The City of Chicago Office of Inspector General (OIG) conducted an audit of the City Council Office of Financial Analysis (COFA). The objective of OIG's audit was to determine whether COFA fulfilled its mission of providing independent financial analysis to support City Council in performing its role in the management of the City of Chicago's financial affairs.

COFA has not consistently provided independent financial analysis to assist City Council and protect the public's interest in the effective and efficient expenditure of City funds. Members of City Council told OIG that COFA's reports provide limited assistance to help them make decisions affecting the City's budget and financial affairs. This shortfall in assistance impairs City Council's ability to act as an independent, co-equal branch of government by requiring it to rely on information obtained

from the Office of Budget and Management (OBM) and other executive departments. COFA stated that it does not receive timely or unhindered access to City data and lacks the resources to conduct the analysis required by the Municipal Code of Chicago (MCC). COFA has neither retained any reports or work paper documentation from before 2021, nor followed a records retention schedule, as required by the Illinois Local Records Act.

[Read more here](#)

Audit of Department of Finance's Management of Outstanding Debt

The Office of Inspector General (OIG) conducted an audit of the Department of Finance's (DOF) management of outstanding debt owed to the City of Chicago.

OIG concluded that DOF's management of outstanding debt relies on decades-old practices and fragmented information systems that are not managed through global policies, procedures, or goals intended to reduce the overall amount of debt owed to the City. The systems actively used by DOF contain approximately \$8.1 billion in outstanding debt. However, this figure is almost certainly a floor for the true amount, which would include debts recorded in various City payment systems that DOF does not directly manage.

[Read more here](#)

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](#)

Audit of 311 Service Request Process

The City of Chicago Office of Inspector General (OIG) conducted an audit of the Office of Emergency Management and Communication's (OEMC) management of 311 and its service request performance.

OIG found that service request information provided on 311's public facing platforms contributes to public confusion and

distrust of City service delivery. 311 staff are aware of the importance of high-quality information relevant to its mission and are taking steps to improve both public-facing and internal aspects of the 311 system. However, public confusion persists about the service request response process, status, and outcomes. Additionally, OIG found 311's potential impact on City services and ability to provide deeper analysis is limited by its resourcing and positioning in an administrative support role. The two staff in the Service Advocacy Unit are responsible for serving more than 40 City departments, in addition to sister agencies and third-party vendors. The Service Advocacy Unit does not carry out those of its responsibilities that require deeper involvement in operations of other City departments.

[Read more here](#)

Advisory on Department of Law's Cooperation with Oversight of Its Employment Actions

Oversight of the City's employment actions and related activities is among the statutory functions of the City of Chicago Office of Inspector General (OIG). In January 2026, OIG advised the City's Department of Law (DOL) that it had failed to meet its duty to cooperate with that oversight by refusing to provide hiring records to which OIG is entitled, and recommended that, going forward, DOL comply with oversight of its employment actions. DOL declined, in part, to provide the records OIG requested because they related to a position DOL described as "high profile." OIG noted in its advisory that neither OIG's legal authority to review employment actions nor DOL's duty to cooperate with OIG permit exceptions for "high profile" matters. OIG's advisory further reflects that, following DOL's refusal to provide OIG with the requested records, OIG submitted a covert and anonymous request for those records under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA). DOL produced the records which it had previously declined to provide to OIG in response to that FOIA request, in a determination at odds with a suggestion that the records were so confidential as to be exempt from oversight.

[Read more here](#)

Chicago Police Department's Implementation of Immediate Recommendations to Improve Homicide Investigations

The Public Safety section of the City of Chicago Office of Inspector General completed an inquiry into the Chicago Police Department's implementation of recommendations made by the Police Executive Research Forum (PERF) regarding homicide investigations.

CPD has worked to establish uniform guidance on conducting homicide investigations by revising and standardizing SOPs, policies, and forms for BOD and developing a consistent means of case file organization. However, CPD has not implemented measures to ensure that such uniform guidance is operationalized. The Department's policies and SOPs do not define how supervisors are held accountable for performing supervisory case reviews, nor does the Department have a

system for specifically assessing Detectives' performance in conducting homicide investigations.

[Read more here](#)

Fairness and Consistency in the Chicago Police Department's Relief of Police Powers

The Public Safety section of the Office of Inspector General (OIG) conducted an inquiry into the process for relieving, or "stripping," police powers of sworn Chicago Police Department (CPD or the Department) members in connection with allegations of misconduct. Relieving a member of their police powers and placing them in an administrative assignment while they are under investigation can be a safeguard against additional misconduct and damage to the Department's reputation and credibility. However, OIG also identified that CPD members who are stripped of their police powers can experience a range of personal and professional consequences.

OIG found that CPD has limited guidance for seeking the relief of police powers during the pendency of misconduct investigations and consistently relieves police powers when members are arrested but has not for other conduct fitting its stated criteria. OIG further found that CPD lacks procedural controls, such as periodic reviews, for cases in which members remain relieved for prolonged periods and provides little communication to members regarding the status of their cases. Lastly, OIG found that CPD only keeps record of cases where members were ultimately relieved of police powers. CPD does not document all cases in which relief of police powers was considered or recommended, nor the Superintendent's decision and accompanying rationale, limiting any analysis of the fairness and consistency of the practice.

[Read more here](#)

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 February 2026 to April 2026, OIG recommended that 2 investigations be reopened. For more information on recommendations and outcomes, please visit lgchicago.org.

Did you know that surplus distributions from Tax Increment Financing (TIF) funds in Chicago exceeded TIF spending in 2024?

Surplus Distributions are amounts that are returned from TIF funds to the City of Chicago and other entities that would have originally received the funds from property taxes.

These distributions come from annual Declared Surpluses, reflecting amounts collected and not designated for specific TIF fund use, and from Remainders at Expiration—any unspent money in a TIF fund when the fund expires at the end of its legally set lifespan (typically 23 years in Illinois).

The 2024 Surplus Distribution was -\$647,396,543, while the 2024 Total Expenditure was -\$517,092,586. In 2024, the Surplus Distribution exceeded the total amount spent.

Learn more about the City of Chicago's TIF districts data by visiting the [Chicago TIF Districts: Cash Flows dashboard](#).

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AIG Illinois Chapter Spring Training - Session I

Spring 2026 AIG Illinois Chapter Training will take place via Webex on Friday, May 15, 2026 from 8:30 AM - 12:30 PM (Central Time) / 9:30 AM - 1:30 PM (Eastern Time) / 6:30 AM - 10:30 AM (Pacific Time).

Session II details and registration will be published soon.

[Click here](#) to register!



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Apply today for the [2026 AIG Certified Inspector General Institute®](#) programs in Washington, DC, from August 10-14, 2026, taking place at the Hyatt Regency Washington on Capitol Hill. The official application deadline is July 17, 2026. Space is limited, so secure your seat today!

2026 AIG Annual Training Conference - Miami, Florida, October 28-30, 2026

Join an international network of inspectors general and oversight professionals at the [2026 AIG Annual Training Conference: 30 Years of Oversight Excellence and Advocacy](#) in Miami, Florida. This premier training event brings together the inspectors general oversight community for three days of world-class educational seminars, practical skill building, collaborative exchange and networking.



City of Chicago Office of Inspector General

Performance Analyst (Public Safety)

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Legal Briefs

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This quarter's Legal Briefs column discusses legal considerations relating to searches in the government workplace. Although these considerations are probably most frequently relevant to investigative work, there may be times when staff conducting audits or inspections/evaluations should keep them in mind. In fact, one of the key U.S. Supreme Court cases relating to government workplace searches arose in a context more like an inspection/evaluation, as opposed to a misconduct investigation. See [*City of Ontario, Cal. v. Quon*, 560 U.S. 746 \(2010\)](#) (inspection of police department pager records to determine whether excess charges were due to work-related messages or personal messages).

The Fourth Amendment of the U.S. Constitution protects individuals against unreasonable searches and seizures by the government. Generally, a search is not reasonable unless the search is authorized by a warrant or an exception to the warrant requirement applies.

To be clear, government employees still enjoy the protections of the Fourth Amendment in the workplace. A public sector employee's Fourth Amendment rights are implicated when a public sector employer infringes upon "an expectation of privacy [in the workplace] that society is prepared to consider reasonable." [*O'Connor v. Ortega*, 480 U.S. 709, 715 \(1987\)](#). However, government workplace searches generally fall within the "special needs" exception to the warrant requirement. Public sector employers may conduct an investigatory or non-investigatory workplace search without a warrant, so long as the search is reasonable.

Note that the workplace includes "areas and items that are related to work and are generally within the employer's control." *Ortega*, 480 U.S. at 715. However, the standard for government workplace searches does "not necessarily apply to a piece of closed personal luggage, a handbag or a briefcase that happens to be within the employer's business address." *Ortega*, 480 U.S. at 716.

When considering whether a government employer may search an employee's workspace, the threshold question is, does the employee have a reasonable expectation of privacy (REP) in the work area where the government employer is seeking to enter. If there is no REP, then there is likely no "search" for Fourth Amendment purposes, and the government would not need to satisfy the following reasonableness analysis. An employee may not have a REP if they are provided notice that defeats the expectation (e.g., a policy or login screen for a computer stating there is no REP in work computer use). [*Muick v. Glenayre Elecs.*, 280 F.3d 741, 743 \(7th Cir. 2002\)](#). Other considerations that may weigh against a REP include shared work spaces, common practices that limit a REP, and spaces open to multiple individuals.

If there is a REP, the search must be reasonable, which is established if the search is (1) justified at its inception and (2) reasonable in scope. A search is generally justified at its inception if "there are reasonable grounds for suspecting that the search will turn up evidence that the employee is guilty of work-related misconduct, or that the search is necessary for a noninvestigatory work-related purpose such as to retrieve a needed file." *Ortega*, 480 U.S. at 726. Even an anonymous tip may justify a search, if there is information indicating that it is credible and is timely acted upon. [*Gossmeier v. McDonald*, 128 F.3d 481, 491 \(7th Cir. 1997\)](#). However, a search is not justified if it is

merely a “fishing expedition conducted with the hope that something would turn up.” [Shields v. Burge, 874 F.2d 1201, 1205 \(7th Cir. 1989\)](#). A search is reasonable in scope “when the measures adopted are reasonably related to the objectives of the search and not excessively intrusive in light of the nature of the misconduct.” *Ortega*, 480 U.S. at 726 (internal punctuation removed). Put another way, the search should be limited to areas where the searcher is reasonably likely to find evidence or information relevant to the purpose of the search.

Even if the search relates to work-related misconduct that could be criminal in nature, the reasonableness standard usually still applies. See *Gossmeier*, 128 F.3d at 492 (no warrant required for DCFS OIG search of an employee’s workspace for alleged child sexual abuse material, even though accompanied by a police officer). Note, however, that a workplace search conducted by a government employee at the direction of law enforcement or for evidence of criminal conduct unrelated to work will likely require a warrant. See *United States v. Shelton*, 997 F.3d 749, 758 (7th Cir. 2021).

For additional discussion regarding searches and the Fourth Amendment, the [Federal Law Enforcement Training Center Legal Training Handbook](#) is available online, and it’s often a helpful summary resource.

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



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