



ASSOCIATION OF INSPECTORS GENERAL

Advancing Professionalism, Accountability & Integrity

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May 14, 2025

Inspector General Deborah Witzburg
231 S. LaSalle Street, 12th Floor
Chicago, IL 60604

Dear Inspector General Witzburg,

The Association of Inspectors General (AIG) performed a Peer Review of the City of Chicago Office of Inspector General (COC OIG) Audit and Program Review (APR), Investigations, and Public Safety Divisions at your request. The Peer Review Team (Team) evaluated the work of these three Divisions covering November 1, 2020 through December 31, 2024. The Team performed the review during the week of May 12, 2025, which took place at your office located in Chicago, Illinois. The Peer Review assessed the work of the three Divisions for compliance with the *Association of Inspectors General Principles and Standards for Offices of Inspector General* and the *United States General Accountability Office (GAO) Government Auditing Standards*. These standards are consistent with the qualitative standards under which your office's APR, Investigations, and Public Safety Divisions have operated throughout the review period.

The five-person Team consisted of the following individuals:

- **Team Leader**
Flora Miller, AIG Board Member and Peer Review Committee Chair
Regional Investigator and Accreditation Manager
Department of Children and Families (FL) Office of Inspector General
- **Team Member for Audit and Program Review**
Andrew McWhinney
Senior Auditor
Virginia Office of the State Inspector General

- **Team Members for Investigations**

Amie Young, AIG Peer Review Committee Member
Chief of Investigations
Department of Children and Families (FL) Office of Inspector General

Charen Johnson
Forensic Analyst
Virginia Office of the State Inspector General

- **Team Member for Public Safety**

Yvonne Brooks, AIG Board Member and Peer Review Committee Member
Deputy Inspector General
Maryland Office of the Inspector General for Education

On behalf of the Team, I am pleased to advise that we found no reportable instances of failure to meet these standards. There are no limitations or qualifications on our opinion. It is the unanimous conclusion of the Team that the Audit and Program Review, Investigations, and Public Safety Divisions met all relevant AIG and GAO standards for the period under review.

The remainder of this letter sets forth the purpose, scope, and methodology of the Peer Review.

Purpose

The Team conducted an independent, qualitative review of the operations of the COC OIG APR, Investigations, and Public Safety Divisions focusing on compliance with agreed-upon standards.

Scope

The Peer Review covered APR, Investigations, and Public Safety operations, resulting work products, and related file materials chosen from closed audits, investigations, and inspections from November 1, 2020 through December 31, 2024 for all three Divisions. The Peer Review's scope also covered the Divisions' compliance with their relevant policy and process manuals and procedural guides, staff qualifications, and professional training requirements. Lastly, the Peer Review assessed supervisory review and quality control over the work product, reporting of results, and the COC OIG relationship and communications with outside agencies. For this last step, the Team met with external stakeholders with whom the COC OIG frequently work or who are the recipients of the COC OIG work products.

Method

The Team generally followed the Peer Review/Qualitative Assessment Review Checklists developed by the AIG. These Checklists are based on the AIG and/or GAO Quality Standards. The Team also called upon their own professional experience as senior

managers of various Offices of Inspector General and through their knowledge of and familiarity with best practices within the Inspector General community.

Prior to the actual on-site review, the Team requested information from the COC OIG, including but not limited to policy and procedures manuals, closed case logs, a list of issued reports, and a list of external stakeholders. The Team used this information to select the work products and related case materials that were ultimately reviewed.

On May 12, 2025, the Team held an entrance conference with you and your executive leadership, during which we explained the Peer Review scope, methodology, limitations, and proposed schedule. During the week, the Peer Reviewers conducted their fieldwork through examination of the selected case files. Peer Reviewers also interviewed staff from APR, Investigations, and Public Safety, as well as staff from other support functions. Interviewees for all three Divisions also included the Deputy Inspector General and respective Chiefs.

The Team also reviewed the personnel files of current APR, Investigations, and Public Safety employees and reviewed their Training and Continuing Education files and all relevant policy and process manuals and procedural guides. All file requests were met fully and timely.

The Team conducted all interviews in confidence and without any limitation on scope or time. Reviewers requested follow-up interviews and explanations, as well as any supplemental documentation, and COC OIG staff graciously accommodated the Team.

The Team also independently chose several external stakeholders to interview. Meetings were arranged between the Peer Reviewers and the external stakeholders for the purpose of evaluating agency cooperation, effectiveness, and responsiveness. Stakeholders¹ included representatives from the:

- Department of Streets and Sanitation
- Department of Human Resources
- Community Commission on Public Safety and Accountability
- Chicago Police Board
- Federal Bureau of Investigations

Finally, the Team held an exit conference with you and your executive leadership on May 14, 2025, during which the Team shared its conclusion that the three Divisions fully met AIG and/or GAO standards. Team members provided you with our observations and opinions gathered during the review. We held separate exit conferences with the Deputy

¹ Although the Team scheduled a meeting with a representative from the Westside and the West Garfield Park Community Stakeholders, a technological issue on the Team's part prevented the virtual meeting from occurring. The Team has requested to conduct either a telephone interview or provided an opportunity for any comments to be provided to the Team via e-mail.

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Inspector General of each Division. During each of these exit conferences, Team members elaborated on the observations made during the week of review. In each of the exit conferences, Team members provided several observations that did not limit or qualify the opinion of the Peer Review but were shared with you and your leadership team as possible areas of consideration going forward. Throughout the week, we had productive discussions with COC OIG members (from the leadership to professional staff) regarding their positive experiences from past Peer Reviews and their affirming opinions about the Peer Review process.

As noted above, it is the unanimous conclusion of the Team that the APR, Investigations, and Public Safety Divisions met all current and relevant AIG and/or GAO standards for the review period.

On behalf of the AIG, I want to thank you for the confidence placed in the Association by requesting that we conduct this review. On behalf of the Team, we would like to acknowledge and thank Inspector General Deborah Witzburg, and your designee, Operations Analyst Emmy Smith, for all their efforts in the coordination and planning of this event and for ensuring that we were provided with the necessary records and tools for a thorough and smooth review. Lastly, on behalf of the Team, we would like to recognize that in all our interactions with your staff, we were shown the respect and cooperation that is the hallmark of a professional staff truly interested in a full and open review of their work. At the same time, this has been a learning experience for each member of the Team, for which we wish to convey our sincerest thanks.

Please feel free to contact me or any member of the Team if you have any questions.

Yours truly,



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Flora Miller

Team Leader, AIG Peer Review for the City of Chicago Office of Inspector General, May 2025

cc:

Flora Miller, AIG Peer Review Committee Chair

Yvonne Brooks, AIG Peer Review for the City of Chicago Office of Inspector General, May 2025

Charen Johnson, AIG Peer Review for the City of Chicago Office of Inspector General, May 2025

Andrew McWhinney, AIG Peer Review for the City of Chicago Office of Inspector General, May 2025

Amie Young, AIG Peer Review for the City of Chicago Office of Inspector General, May 2025

Michael Castrilli, AIG Executive Director

Jodie Stickney, AIG Project Coordinator

William Fletcher, AIG Board President