

**CITY OF DETROIT**  
**OFFICE OF THE INSPECTOR GENERAL**  
**2016 Fourth Quarter Report**  
(October 1, 2016 – December 31, 2016)



**JAMES W. HEATH, ESQ.**  
**INSPECTOR GENERAL**  
**February 28, 2017**

## **Office of Inspector General (OIG) Complaints**

The Office of the Inspector General received 43 complaints during the fourth quarter of 2016.

## **Office of Inspector General Initiated Cases**

The OIG initiated 11 cases during this quarter. The investigations included 8 departments or agencies.

<b>Department/Agency</b>	<b>Number of Investigations</b>
City Clerk	2
Detroit Department of Transportation	3
Public Lighting	1
Mayor's Office	1
General Services	1
Great Lakes Water Authority	1
Office of Chief Financial Officer	1
Other	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>11</b>

## **Office of the Inspector General Closed Cases**

A case is considered closed when an OIG file manager completes an investigation and the Inspector General approves the finding. During the fourth quarter, the OIG closed ten (10) cases. Below is a compilation of synopses for the closed cases during this quarter.

### **2016-DA-0075**

An anonymous complainant alleged that a Detroit public servant abused their authority by parking a City of Detroit vehicle at a private business in Dearborn Heights and sleeping for hours. The OIG researched the vehicle and identified it as registered to the Department of Public Works (DPW). The OIG referred the complaint to DPW.

### **2016-DC-0060**

The complainant alleged that a Buildings Safety Engineering and Environmental (BSEED) inspector abused their authority by granting a building permit in exchange for a cash payment to the inspector. The complainant did not provide any identifying information for the public servant who allegedly received the payment, nor the business owner who allegedly paid it. Further, the OIG could not find any business with the name provided by the complainant in the City of Detroit. The complainant chose to remain anonymous, so the OIG was unable to make contact and obtain additional information. As a result, the OIG closed the case.

### **2016-NA-0064**

The complainant alleged that they were the victim of domestic abuse and was in need of help. The OIG forwarded the complaint to the Detroit Police Department Domestic Violence (DPD DV). The OIG gave the complainant the name of the officer in DPD DV to whom the report was assigned.

### **2016-NA-0068**

The Detroit City Council was presented with a dispute between the Office of the Auditor General (OAG) and the Office of the Chief Financial Officer (OCF) regarding the selection procedure for an external auditor to perform the Consolidated Annual Financial Report (CAFR). There was a concern that the selection process was not being done in accordance with the 2012 Charter of the City of Detroit. A representative of the Legislative Policy Division suggested to the City Council that the complaint be referred to the OIG. Prior to looking into the matter, the Auditor General informed the OIG that he considered the matter closed and did not see a need for an investigation. As a result, the OIG closed its case.

### **2016-NA-0040**

The complainant alleged that a public servant abused their authority by granting a property tax exemption to a relative. Secondly, the complainant alleged that another public servant abused their authority by showing favoritism regarding property tax reductions. The OIG investigation found no evidence to substantiate the allegations.

### **2016-NA-0004**

The complainant alleged that their property was erroneously included on the list of foreclosed properties. The OIG research revealed that the County Treasurer and the City of Detroit collaborate regarding all assessments due on all properties. The complainant's property was not in foreclosure, however, there was an assessment due for domestic solid waste fees.

### **2016-CA-0015**

The complainant alleged that an employee with the United States Postal Service (USPS) who was on duty disability committed fraud by applying for Section 8 benefits from the Housing and Urban Development Department (HUD). The HUD Inspector General alleged that the employee also worked for the 36<sup>th</sup> District Court. OIG research confirmed this information. The OIG forwarded the investigation results to the USPS Inspector General.

### **2013-010**

The complainant alleged that a public servant working with the City of Detroit Assessor's Office abused their authority by reducing property values in exchange for money. The OIG closed the case because the initial information provided by the complainant was not sufficient to conduct a thorough investigation. The OIG opened a subsequent case following the receipt of additional information. The OIG found evidence to substantiate the complainant's allegation and forwarded the findings to the appropriate law enforcement agency. The second case, 2014-DC-0222, was reported in the OIG's 2014 fourth quarter report.

### **2015-DA-0145**

The complainant alleged that public servant supervisors in the Department of Transportation (DDOT) abused their authority by improperly demoting the complainant in violation certain local and federal laws. The OIG found no evidence to substantiate the allegations.

**2016-NA-0049**

The complainant alleged that a property owner committed theft by using a “bypass” system to obtain water from another resident. The OIG requested information to identify the property. The complainant did not provide the information. The OIG was unable to investigate the complaint.