

City of Detroit
Office of Inspector General
2015 3rd Quarter Report

(July 1, 2015 – September 30, 2015)



January 9, 2016

Office of Inspector General (OIG) Complaints

The OIG received a total of 116 complaints during the 3rd Quarter of 2015.

Office of Inspector General Initiated Cases

The OIG initiated 90 cases during this quarter. The investigations involved 10 different departments or agencies. The Human Resources Department had a much higher number of cases associated with it because of the ongoing unemployment insurance fraud investigation that the OIG is conducting in cooperation with the department and the State of Michigan. The number of cases should not be taken as an indication of a continuing problem within that particular department, but rather as evidence of their partnership in the effort.

Department/Agency	# of Investigations
Human Resources Department	71
Building, Safety Engineering, and Environmental Department	5
City Council	1
Department of Public Works	2
Department of Transportation	4
Mayor's Office	1
City Clerk	1
Police Department	3
Animal Control	1
Board of Ethics	1
Total	90

Office of Inspector General Closed Cases

A case is considered closed when an OIG file manager completes their investigation and the Inspector General approves a finding. During the 3rd Quarter, the OIG closed 13 cases. The following list provides a brief synopsis of each closed case.

2014-DA-0421

Complainant alleged that a citizen who was not a City of Detroit employee used a Buildings, Safety Engineering, and Environmental Department (BSEED) inspector's badge during private business dealings. The OIG was unable to substantiate the allegation; however, the OIG forwarded the complaint to BSEED management in case of future allegations.

2015-DC-0001

Complainant alleged misconduct in the Elections Department and City Clerk's office including (1) misuse of the Poll Worker Management System (PWMS); (2) inappropriate promotions of two employees; and (3) a personal services contract that was not properly approved. The OIG conducted an investigation into the allegations and reached the following conclusions: (1) after conducting a review of the PWMS payroll, no ongoing misuse was found; (2) the employees in question did not receive improper promotions; and (3) the personal services contractor was approved by all required parties. Therefore, the OIG investigation revealed no evidence of waste, abuse, fraud, or corruption.

2015-DA-0045

Complainant stated that he had an offer to purchase property from the City of Detroit Planning and Development Department and had paid the required good faith deposit. Complainant alleges that an attorney from the City of Detroit Law Department misinformed the Detroit City Council about the deposit and land purchase agreement. Complainant filed a lawsuit after submitting his complaint to the OIG. The issue was resolved in court and the OIG closed the case.

2015-DF-0049

Complainant alleged that a member of the Wayne County Treasurer's Office (WCTO) stole and cashed her property tax check. The complainant was unable to provide necessary information to meet the threshold needed in order for the OIG to refer this allegation to the proper law enforcement entity. The OIG provided the complainant with contact information for the Detroit Police Department (DPD) and Michigan State Police (MSP) and closed the case.

2015-NA-0054

Complainant alleged that the owner of a neighboring property failed to repair their blighted garage despite numerous tickets from BSEED. While the OIG was in the midst of the investigation, the blighted garage was torn down and the OIG closed the case.

2015-DW-0074

Complainant alleged that an employee with the Municipal Parking Department (MPD) was sleeping in an idling city vehicle for approximately one hour while "on-duty." Pictures taken by the complainant appeared to show that the employee was sleeping. After initiating the case, the OIG learned that the employee in question had already been suspended pending dismissal for a separate incident. The OIG subsequently closed the case.

2015-DA-0078

Complainant, a public servant in the General Services Department, alleged that his supervisor was engaging in abusive behavior by treating him differently than other employees. Following a conversation with the complainant the OIG determined that the allegations did not amount to abuse. The OIG recommended that the complainant consult with his union and closed the case.

2015-NA-0080

Complainant alleged that his neighbor kept a City of Detroit van in Ortonville, MI all day on a Saturday. The complainant was unable to provide any identifying information about the vehicle other than it appeared to have City of Detroit markings. The OIG performed a records search of the address provided by the complainant and compared the results to current City of Detroit employees but did not find any connection. Despite being unable to substantiate the claim, the OIG notified relevant City of Detroit departments of the complaint in the event a similar allegation arises in the future.

2015-DA-0141

An anonymous complainant alleged that a public servant with the Department of Public Works (DPW) allows his subordinates to drink alcohol while working. The OIG was unable to reach the complainant to gather additional information. However, since the allegation concerned a possible public safety hazard, the OIG notified DPW management of the complaint.

2015-DA-0160

Complainant alleged that employees at the Buildings, Safety Engineering, and Environmental Department (BSEED) ignored his requests to rectify numerous building violations at his apartment building. After an OIG request, BSEED management detailed numerous tickets written at the property and pending misdemeanor tickets if the owner failed to comply. Therefore, the OIG found no evidence of waste, abuse, fraud, or corruption.

2015-CF-0162

The OIG received a complaint alleging corruption by an individual seeking a contract with the City of Detroit. Following an investigation, the Inspector General determined that there was probable cause to believe that a crime had been committed, and in accordance with the 2012 Charter of the City of Detroit, referred the matter to an appropriate law enforcement agency.

2015-NA-0164

Complainant alleged that a Detroit Department of Transportation (DDOT) bus driver had an extensive criminal record and was therefore prohibited from driving a bus for DDOT. However, a felony conviction does not disqualify an applicant from being offered a position as a DDOT bus driver. Therefore, the OIG found no evidence of fraud, abuse, waste, or corruption.

2015-NA-0170

Complainant, a Detroit resident, complained that the contractor hired by the City of Detroit to collect bulk trash consistently failed to service her home. The OIG referred the complainant to the City of Detroit Ombudsperson.