



# CITY OF DETROIT OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL

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Inspector General

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## **Detroit City Council Votes to Affirm Office of Inspector General Debarment of Multiple Tow Companies and Owners**

DETROIT – The Detroit City Council voted today to affirm the debarment of Gasper Fiore (20 years), Jennifer Fiore (20 years), Joan Fiore and Javion & Sam’s Towing Service, Inc. (15 years), Jessica Lucas (10 years), Boulevard & Trumbull Towing Inc.(20 years), Paul Ott, Gene’s Towing, Inc. and City Wide Towing, Inc.(7 years), Anthony Thomas and B & G Towing (7 years).

The Debarments were issued by the Detroit Office of Inspector General (OIG) on December 14, 2018, after an extensive investigation of the tow companies and their overlapping business interest, and relationship to the bribery of a convicted former city official. According to the Debarment Ordinance approved by City Council on July 31, 2018, which became effective as of August 10, 2018, the debarred companies/individuals appealed the OIG “decision to debar” to Detroit City Council. The aforementioned companies and individuals provided notice of their intent to appeal on January 11, 2019. On February 19, 2019 City Council held the City’s first debarment appeal hearing since the implementation of the Debarment Ordinance. During that hearing legal counsel for the debarred companies and individuals (appellants) presented rationale for Council to overturn the decision of the OIG to debar. Likewise, the Inspector General (appellee) presented justification for Council to affirm the OIG debarment. Today, Council rendered its final decision by way of resolutions.

Today marks a milestone in the City’s history when tools provided by the 2012 City Charter to deter fraud, abuse, waste, and corruption in City government and contracting have been exercised on those individuals and companies that would victimize the City and the taxpayers of the City of Detroit. “The people of Detroit entrusted us to hold people and businesses accountable for their actions. In this instance, we are holding these tow contractors accountable. Honesty and integrity are values endorsed by the City and will be enforced by our Office”, stated Inspector General Ellen Ha.

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