



## CITY OF DETROIT OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL

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Inspector General

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### **Office of Inspector General Finalizes Report on the Preferential Treatment Provided to Make Your Date Program and Deletion of Certain Emails by City of Detroit Employees**

DETROIT – On April 5, 2019, in accordance with the 2012 Charter of the City of Detroit (Charter), the Office of Inspector General (OIG) initiated an investigation pertaining to questions surrounding Wayne State University’s Make Your Date (MYD) program and the support it received from the City. Due to public interest in this matter, the OIG issued a press release announcing the investigation.

The report issued today is the culmination of an exhaustive investigation which lead to two (2) key findings which are reflected in detail in the OIG’s Report.

1. MYD was unilaterally selected by the Mayor based on his experience and the advice of members of his transition team. However, the OIG finds that any time an agency, non-profit, or other organization receives City of Detroit resources, it should be selected through a fair, open, and transparent process. This is necessary to ensure the public that City time and resources, including taxpayer dollars, are being expended wisely, efficiently, and effectively.
2. The Mayor’s Chief of Staff, Alexis Wiley, ordered certain Office of Development and Grants (ODG) employees to delete their respective emails pertaining to MYD through Chief Development Officer Ryan Friedrichs and Deputy Chief Development Officer Sirene Abou-Chakra. The deletion of emails only serves to undermine the public’s trust in an open and transparent government. Therefore, the OIG finds such conduct as abuse of authority.

“Of the above-referenced key findings, we find the latter to be more egregious conduct for the reasons stated in this summary. The very fact that they were ordered to be deleted alone casts a shadow over transparency,” stated Inspector General Ellen Ha.

Per the Charter and Administrative Rules of the Office of Inspector General the “affected parties” were given an opportunity to respond to our draft report dated September 30, 2019. “A joint-written response from the Mayor, Alexis Wiley, Ryan Friedrichs, and Sirene Abou-Chakra in reply to the draft report was received on October 14, 2019. A copy of the joint-written response is attached to the final report. This report can be located on our website at [https://detroitmi.gov/sites/detroitmi.localhost/files/2019-10/Final%20Complete%20MYD%20Report\\_0.pdf](https://detroitmi.gov/sites/detroitmi.localhost/files/2019-10/Final%20Complete%20MYD%20Report_0.pdf).



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The Office of Inspector General is an independent agency that is charged with ensuring honesty and integrity in the City. Its jurisdiction is limited by the Charter to investigate matters concerning abuse, waste, fraud and corruption. We do not have jurisdiction over legal matters, and as such, we do not provide legal analyses or make legal determinations. We gather evidence during the course of our investigation and make factual findings.

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