



GOOD GOVERNMENT

Committed to Honesty and Integrity in City Government

CITY OF DETROIT OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL

WINTER 2022

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MESSAGE FROM THE IG



IG Ellen Ha

I would like to congratulate and thank my staff for coming up with the idea to create and publish a newsletter in our effort to reach out to the public in a lighter and more informative manner than what we publish in our quarterly reports. The purpose of the Office of Inspector General (OIG) newsletter, Good Government, is to make people aware of what we do here at the OIG and how it relates to being good government. Moreover, it is important that the public understand that while the OIG is an independent agency here in Detroit, our Office is a part of a larger community of IGs around the country and that we all have similar goals in ensuring honesty and integrity in our respective governments.

While the federal government and certain states and cities have many OIGs, here in Detroit, the concept of an OIG still remains a mystery to most people. As such, we hope our newsletters will assist in clarifying and explaining what we do here at the OIG. We endeavor into this adventure with a hope that we can reach and engage as many people as possible in what we do here at our Office.

YOU ARE THE CITY OF DETROIT!

By Edyth Porter-Stanley

In case you weren't aware, as a City of Detroit employee you are important to all the citizens and visitors of the City of Detroit. Some are on the front line directly assisting citizens with personal matters, driving buses that get people to work, or policing the streets to keep people safe. But many of us are behind the scenes keeping track of City finances or maintaining the City's infrastructure. There is a saying that "the tone comes from the top." Yes that can mean the elected officials, but it also means every one of us. The way we talk about the City we work for and the way we do our jobs every day sets the tone for how citizens feel about Detroit. Remember this as you approach each interaction not only with citizens but with your coworkers. They are important. What they need from us is important. You are important. What you do is important. You are the City of Detroit. We are here for you. We are proud to work alongside you every day to ensure good government in the City.

EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT

MEET...KAMAU

By Beverly Murray



**Deputy Inspector General
Kamau Marable**

Just the basics:

I am a born and raised Detroiter and current homeowner in Detroit. I graduated from Martin Luther King Jr. Senior High School; Undergraduate degree from the University of Michigan; and Graduate Degree from Wayne State University. I am married to the lovely Brandi Marable. I am a proud member of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc. I am also a proud public servant, spending most of my career in public service, and proud puppy papa to Shenanigans. **(Cont.)**



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Describe your role with the OIG...

My duties include handling human resources and budgeting for the office. I also assist the staff with their investigations and forensic audits. I believe the core of what I do is assist the Inspector General execute her vision for the office. I believe my role is to have the back of everyone in the office and assist them to fulfill their potential. I take these roles seriously.

What do you believe is your biggest accomplishment with the OIG?

Getting the office up and running. When I started, we were basically working out of a closet in CAYMC with no staff. Finding suitable office space, writing job descriptions for new positions, and interviewing/hiring the staff were all necessary to get the office going, and I believe I was instrumental and successful in all those things.

What is the best part of working with the OIG?

One is to help the city fulfill its mission to provide good government to its citizens. I mentioned earlier that I have spent most of my career in public service. I feel that public service is a calling and something that I take very seriously. The mission of the OIG is to ensure the City of Detroit is providing services and a government that works for the citizens of Detroit, and we do that without care of politics, without care of personality, without care of who may like or dislike it. As someone who has worked in many areas of City government, including both the Executive and Legislative branches, and knowing the positives and negatives of each of those branches, the independent OIG is the best of government. I will also say it has been an honor to work with previous IG Heath, current IG Ha and the various members of the OIG staff that not only have a similar heart for service but are also the brightest and most dedicated people I have ever worked with.

What is the best advice you have ever received?

My mom had a very simple saying that has never gone too far from me. It is “do unto others as you would have them do unto you.” I know it’s biblical, but it was her saying and something that always stuck with me.

Another saying from my old boss Gil Hill who thought me so much, was basically it should never be about the politics, it should always be about the service and serving the people, and that should be first and foremost.

What is your favorite movie?

Rocky-1976.

What is something most people would be surprised to find out about you?

That I’m an unabashed nerd and I like all the Sci-Fi.

If you could snap your fingers and become an expert at something, what would that be?

Solving the inherent racial, social, and education inequities in this world. If I could find that answer to something, that would be it.



2014 OIG Staff Picture



Community Service



Appearing w/ IG Ha at City Council



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THE ELEMENTS OF COMPLAINTS

By Tracey Neal and Kasha Graves

Webster's Dictionary defines a complaint as a statement or a situation that is unsatisfactory or unacceptable. "My trash was not picked up," "they are dumping toxic soil in my neighborhood," "the restaurant behind me is dumping cooking oil down the sewer drain," and "I believe someone is stealing money," are examples of the complaints that the OIG receives.

Did you know...

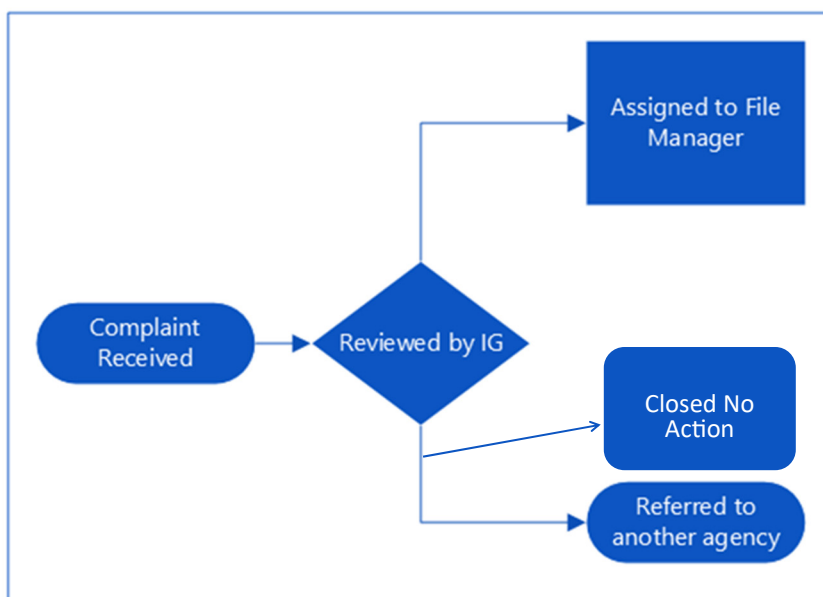
You can contact the OIG to get things off your chest even if you are not sure your complaint is something the OIG can investigate. If the issue is not in the OIG's jurisdiction, OIG Staff refers the complaint to someone who can better assist you. So do not hesitate to call, write, or fill out a complaint form on the OIG's website.



HOW TO FILE A COMPLAINT

1. OIG Website Online Complaint Form
WWW.DETOIG.ORG
2. Detroit Inspector General Suggestions:
SUGGESTIONS@DETOIG.ORG
or
OIG@DETOIG.ORG
3. Office of Inspector General Hotline
Hotline: (313) 964-TIPS (8477)
4. Office of Inspector General
Main Line: (313) 628-2517
5. In person at:
Office of Inspector General
615 Griswold, Suite 1230
Detroit, MI 48226

THE OIG IS HERE TO HELP!



The Office of Inspector General reviews all Complaints that come into the office.

COMPLAINT RECEIVED

The complaint is entered into the Case Management and Tracking System (CMTS) with the date received and prepared to move on to the next step.

COMPLAINT REVIEWED

A complaint is reviewed by the Inspector General and a determination made whether or not to open an investigation.

COMPLAINT RESOLUTION

Open Investigation

The complaint has been opened as an investigation and assigned to an investigator or forensic auditor.

Close Complaint

The complaint has been referred to another department or agency. For various reasons complaints are sometimes closed with no action.



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ANATOMY OF AN OIG INTERVIEW

By Jennifer Bentley

Why is the OIG calling me?

A call from the OIG means that you may have information that is needed to resolve a complaint or investigation. You may be asked to provide documents, information, and/or to meet with OIG employees for an interview. Interviews are generally held at the OIG office but may be conducted by video conferencing in some circumstances.

Do I have to cooperate?

Yes. The Charter states that all public servants and contractors must cooperate with the Inspector General in any investigation. Cooperation is **not** optional.

Can I tell people about my conversations with the OIG?

No. The Charter requires that all open OIG investigations remain confidential. This is important because it helps ensure that everyone we interview provides their own recollection of events and not what a group of people remember. However, OIG files may be subject to the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA), subpoena, court order, or any applicable federal or state laws.

What are my interview rights?

All people are informed of their rights prior to being interviewed by the OIG. This includes advising people that they are required to cooperate and, therefore, cannot be retaliated against for doing so. People are also permitted to bring a union rep or personal attorney to an OIG interview, when appropriate.

Can I be charged with a crime based on statements I make to the OIG?

No. All public servants have Garrity Rights. Garrity Rights say that if you disclose information during an interview that indicates you may be guilty of criminal conduct, nothing you say or any evidence gathered because of what you say to the OIG can be used against you in criminal legal proceedings.

What if I forget or misstate something during my interview?

After an OIG interview, if you remember additional information or would like to provide clarification on any statements made, you may contact the OIG employees who conducted the interview. You may provide additional information at any time until the final memo or report is issued.

Can I be charged with perjury if I lie to the OIG?

No. Perjury is a criminal offense. The OIG is not a law enforcement agency and, therefore, only investigates administrative matters.



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THE DETROIT DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION IMPLEMENTED A SCRAP METAL PARTS PROGRAM THAT GENERATES REVENUE FOR THE CITY OF DETROIT

By Jacqueline Hendricks-Moore and Edyth Porter-Stanley

In 2019, the OIG conducted a forensic audit of the Detroit Department of Transportation (DDOT) Vehicle Maintenance Department (VMD) policies and procedures for the disposal of vehicle scrap parts. The purpose of the forensic audit was to determine how effective DDOT's policies and procedures were in preventing waste, fraud, abuse and corruption regarding the disposition of vehicle parts. Based on the audit findings, the OIG concluded that the DDOT departments did not have effective and efficient policies and procedures for the disposition of vehicle parts. Specifically, they could not account for the parts removed from the coaches during preventative and unscheduled maintenance, which were discarded as scrap metal parts.

As a result of the OIG's forensic audit, DDOT revised their Standard Operation Procedures (SOP) MM-21 "Scrap Parts & Core", providing detailed information about the processes and procedures for scrapped parts, reclaimed parts and forms used to record the scrap parts. In addition, DDOT implemented a **Scrap Metal Parts Program** where the city receives revenue for the scrap metal parts collected by a city approved contractor. Per the DDOT Executive Director of Transit, Mikel Oglesby, this program has generated **\$16,182.21** in revenue for the city as of December 2021.

The OIG makes recommendations that are based on the findings of an investigation or a forensic audit. The reason for the recommendations is to provide feedback on methods that could possibly prevent the incident from occurring or reoccurring.

The OIG wanted to recognize DDOT for their initiative in implementing the "Scrap Metal Parts" program, which turns discarded metal parts into revenue generated for the City of Detroit.



Mikel Oglesby is executive director for the Detroit Department of Transportation. Photo by Pauline Armbrust