

**Spring 2025**

**In this Issue:**

- **Page 1**  
**From the Desk of the IG**
- **Page 2**  
**Employee Spotlight**
- **Page 3**  
**Fraud Alert**
- **Page 4**  
**In the Media**
- **Page 5**  
**Reaching Out to the Community**

## From the Desk of the Inspector General

### *Bridging The Great Divide*



**Inspector General  
Kamau C. Marable**

Anyone who knows me knows the pride and love I have for my City. My friends are often frustrated with my lack of interest in leaving my City for the burbs for almost any reason. I take pleasure in being able to live, work, and play in Detroit. We have some of the most beautiful homes, restaurants, sports venues, and concert halls, along with a wealth of culture to enjoy!

Being born and raised in Detroit, I was made aware of the great East-West divide from an early age. So, this meant my understanding of what made up Detroit was limited. My childhood home was located in the area of West 7 Mile and Southfield Freeway, specifically on Fenmore Street. My family had no other family or friends on the East Side of the City and this was my reality. Growing up, the furthest East I had ever gone was Belle Isle. All I knew growing up was the West Side.

Well, my social norm was broken when I got accepted to the new magnet program at Martin Luther King Jr. Senior High School. This allowed me to meet real “Eastsiders” in the flesh for the first time. My best friend of nearly 40 years was a legit Eastsider. The Eastside was alright with my high school self.

That is why I didn’t have any issue with buying my first home on the Eastside after returning to the City after 5 years away at college and about a year in Atlanta, GA. I didn’t mind the ATL, but it simply wasn’t home. The house we purchased was on Berkshire between East Warren and Mack. I was unaware at the time that my home was within the boundaries of the Morningside Community. I soon learned that this was a well-established community organization dedicated to maintaining and improving that community. I attended a meeting and was completely sold on the idea of being a part of this organization. This is where I met Mr. Eric Dueweke who was either the President or the Vice-President at that time. He recruited me to the Executive Board of Morningside and I eventually was elected President. This was around 25 years ago. I believe with the help of fellow board members and the community, we accomplished great things.

Eric was there the entire time. Let me say without reservation that there is no more dedicated community leader and organizer in the whole City of Detroit, East or West. He has worked with Morningside in one capacity or another for 30 years. Recently, as I continued our efforts to introduce the OIG to the community, we had the opportunity to speak to the Morningside Community Organization. It was a tremendous pleasure to visit my old neighborhood and guess who was there to welcome me. None other than Eric Dueweke, currently the President of Morningside. Eric is a shining example of a community servant, asking for little and giving his all.



**Detroit’s Inspector General  
Kamau Marable &  
Morningside President,  
Eric Dueweke**

Although I currently live on the West Side of Detroit, I cherish the memories from my time on the East Side. What some others may not understand is that no matter what side of town you reside, a good Detroiter is a good Detroiter.





# GOOD GOVERNMENT

Committed to Honesty and Integrity in City Government

Kasha Graves - Editor-in-Chief

## EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT

By: Beverly Murray



**Srinivas Gampa**

### *Tell me about yourself.*

I began my career as a programmer and gained expertise in data-related fields while working across various departments and organizations. Currently, I hold the position of Senior Data Analyst. As of my background, I was born in India and hold a bachelor's degree in computer science. After graduating, I moved to Canada to pursue a master's degree. While there, I received a job offer in Detroit in 2006, which marked the start of my career. Shortly after, I got married. In 2012, I was blessed with my first child, a son. Around this time, I focused on completing my master's degree in computer science at Wayne State University, where I was able to transfer my credits from Canada to finish my studies. Later, I was blessed with a second son, and now I am proud to be a father of two wonderful boys. My parents currently reside in India, and I have two sisters—one lives in India, and the other is in Boston.

### *How did you get into this field?*

When I was a kid, I always liked to do puzzles, and I used to love chess and all those types of games. I'm an analytical person. So, I had a choice either to become a lawyer or a computer engineer. So, my choice was to become a lawyer, but my family insisted that I become a computer engineer because at that time in the '90s that career was really good compared to the law field back in India. So that's why I chose this career because of analytical thinking.

### *What is your role with the OIG?*

My role is a data analyst. I am involved in collecting, organizing and analyzing data from different sources which support our investigations, audits and other reviews. Also, my role is to make sure we use up-to-date technologies and make sure all the tools are here to support all the staff. Finally, I make sure there are no security issues and make sure everything is maintained confidentially.

### *What do you enjoy about working here?*

So here I work with all the investigators, auditors and attorneys. I enjoy what OIG does and I admire OIG's role in fostering integrity and its commitment towards transparency. I really like OIG's role in the city of Detroit. So, I'm here to support what they do. And glad to be here. I want to be part of this machine. Before I started here, I had multiple job offers, and it was a tough decision. But after working here with all the people, I'm happy that I'm in the right place.

### *If you could have any superpower, what would it be and why?*

If I had a superpower, I would want to fly very fast like a flash so that I can go to my parents in India and come back quickly. Because they're getting older, I frequently want to visit them. In Indian culture, sons are supposed to take care of parents when they grow older. I feel bad about it. So that's why I try to go frequently, and I try to bring them here. My dad is not ready to come here yet, but very soon I'll bring them here.



**Srinivas Gampa  
with wife & two son's**





## **FRAUD ALERT**

## **DON'T GET TAKEN**

Make sure the prize patrol  
is real Consumer Fraud Prize  
Schemes

By: Jennifer Bentley

Consumer fraud is defined as deceptive business practices that cause consumers to suffer financial or other losses. The elderly and college students are those most targeted in these schemes but all consumers are at risk of being victims of fraud. A common type of consumer fraud tricks people into thinking they won a prize or a large sum of money. Below are some common prize schemes that people need to watch out for.

### ***Sweepstakes, Giveaways, and Prizes-***

Scammers lure victims by claiming they won a sweepstakes or large prize. However, before the prize can be claimed, people are required to pay fees such as prepayment of taxes, shipping and handling charges, and processing fees. Even after all the fees are paid, no such prize is ever delivered.

### ***Advance-Fee Sweeps-***

A telemarketer poses as a representative from a sweepstakes company and tells the person they won the grand prize and will receive it after they prepay taxes owed on it. In some cases, the scammer poses as a government official to request the taxes be paid before the prize is delivered.

### ***Free Prizes-***

A fraudulent telemarketer calls an individual to say they won a free gift as a valued credit card holder. The victim is then asked to verify their credit card number for shipping purposes. The credit card is then debited for a hidden fee.

### ***False Text Message Prize Offers-***

Victims receive an unsolicited text message saying they won a prize. The text includes a link to a website that the person must click on to provide personal information and pay a small fee. Scammers then sell personal information and keep the fee. The consumers lose their money, never get a prize, and compromise their personal information.



**Here are some red flags to look out for so  
you don't fall victim to the fake prize patrol.**

**You have to pay to get your prize:** Real prizes are free and don't require you to pay taxes ahead of time or to pay for shipping and handling. If you are asked to pay by wiring money, sending cash, or paying with gift cards or cryptocurrency to get your prize, don't do it. Scammers use these payments because it's hard to track who got the money and it's even harder to get it back.

**You have to give your financial information.** There's absolutely no reason to give your bank account or credit card number to claim any prize or sweepstakes

**You can't win a contest you didn't enter.** You need to buy a ticket or complete an application to participate in a contest or lottery. Verify that it is a legitimate business by doing research on the company. Another thing to keep in mind is that it is illegal to play a foreign lottery.

**You are offered "too-good-to-be-true" prizes.** It is almost always a large sum of money, but there is always a catch.

**You may report consumer fraud to the Michigan Attorney General's Office at <https://secure.ag.state.mi.us/complaints/consumer.aspx> or by calling 877-765-8388.**





## Power, PlayStations, and P-Card Fraud

By: Tiye Greene

Surely, you've heard of the largest public-school embezzlement scandal in American history! No?! I'll fill you in.

In the early 2000s, two school administrators in Roslyn, New York gave their students a crash course in grand larceny. At the helm was Frank Tassone, a suave and beloved superintendent who relished weekends in Las Vegas. Next was Pam Gluckin, the school district's business administrator and Frank's right-hand woman.

Together, Frank and Pam orchestrated an embezzlement scheme that funneled \$11.2 million from the Rosalyn School District. Yep... While parents were fundraising for new books, they were treating themselves to luxury vacations, new cars, and botox treatments. Ironically, no one noticed until a student reporter at Roslyn's school newspaper, The Hilltop Beacon, started asking questions about suspicious expenses. That's when the whole scheme unraveled.

A young reporter's "fluff piece" about a new skybridge in their high school led her to a receipt for a consultant that didn't exist. And then another...and then another. Before she knew it, she had a spreadsheet of expenses that made no sense. The moment her school-newspaper article went live, everyone wanted answers. Within days, after several emergency meetings, the school district was forced to acknowledge that something was very wrong with the budget.

In the end, Frank resigned and was convicted of stealing \$2.2 million. Pam was fired and testified against Frank after pleading guilty to embezzling \$4.3 million herself. Both served several years in prison. Others convicted in the scheme include Frank's partner, Stephen Signorelli, who pled guilty to second-degree larceny in 2006. Pam's testimony protected members of her family who had also spent thousands of dollars using school credit cards for jewelry, PlayStations, and home renovations.

Former New York State Comptroller, Alan Hevesi, alleged that over 25 school officials, as well as their families and friends, benefited from the embezzlement scheme, which lasted more than a decade. Still, approximately, \$1.5 million is not traceable to an individual.

I don't know if this story drives home the age-old adage "crime doesn't pay." But one thing this devastatingly true story does prove is that a student reporter can be just as effective as any investigative journalist. Don't underestimate the little guy's ability to expose a multi-million dollar crime.

**Bad Education**, a biographical drama based on the true-story of Frank Tassone and Pam Gluckin's astounding theft of taxpayer funds, is streaming now on **Max (HBO)**.



**Kasha Graves - Editor-in-Chief**



***Previous OIG Community Outreach Events:***

**Tuesday, May 13, 2025, Berg/Lahser Community Association, First Baptist World Changers,  
22575 Eight Mile Rd, Detroit, MI 48219**

***Upcoming OIG Community Outreach Events:***

**Tuesday, June 2, 2025 - Warrendale Community Organization, Saints Peter and Paul Catholic Church Activities Building, 7740 Westwood, Detroit, MI 48228**

*If you would like to schedule an event for your department or community group, contact us during regular business hours at 313-628-2517. We look forward to meeting you!*