



Inspector General's Office City of Chicago

180 N. Michigan Ave, Suite 2000

Chicago, Illinois 60601

(773) 478-7799

(773) 478-3949 (fax)

<http://www.ChicagoInspectorGeneral.org>

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

February 16, 2010

CONTACT: (773) 478-4680

Dan Sprehe, Special Assistant

STATEMENT FROM THE INSPECTOR GENERAL'S OFFICE

The proposal announced today to amend the Inspector General's ordinance constitutes a watershed moment in the history of the City of Chicago.

The ordinance, which Mayor Daley will introduce at Wednesday's City Council meeting, includes provisions that will enable the Inspector General's Office ("IGO") to serve the residents of the City more effectively and help to improve the integrity, efficiency, and effectiveness of City government. The office regards today's proposal as directly responsive to many of the core reform issues for which this office has advocated in its recent public filings and has further pushed in constructive dialogue between the IGO, the Mayor, and the Law Department.

Hiring Oversight

As proposed, the ordinance would bring monitoring oversight of the City's hiring practices to the Inspector General's office. In doing so, Mayor's proposal comes to grips with core structural reforms necessary to root out patronage and corruption in the City of Chicago.

The Mayor has taken what this office has long regarded as a critical step to structurally assuring robust satisfaction of the City's constitutional obligation, as enshrined under the Shakman accords, to refrain from and stamp out the influence of patronage in its employment actions.

Jurisdiction

Equally important, the proposed ordinance would expand the jurisdiction of the office to include the City Council. In addition to monitoring City hiring, the IGO regards this structural change as necessary to rooting out misconduct in *all* areas of city government, to giving the citizens of this City confidence that actions taken by the City will be done the right way, for the right reasons, and with transparency.

(MORE)

Transparency

To that end, the proposed ordinance would allow and require the Inspector General's Office to provide more information to the public, including summaries of each investigation resulting in "sustained" findings of misconduct. Such reports would disclose the nature of the allegations, the sustained violations, the IGO's recommendations for discipline or other measures, as well as the City's response to and final decision on those recommendations.

Conclusion

These proposed amendments are the right thing to do and have long been supported by the IGO. If passed, they will enable this office to more effectively serve the interests of every Chicago resident.

###