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IGO Releases 1st Quarter 2013 Report

The City of Chicago Office of Inspector General (IGO) has transmitted its first quarter report for 2013 to the City Council and City officials. The report, which is available on the IGO website, provides a summary of IGO activity from January 1 through March 31, 2013.

City law mandates that the Quarterly include certain statistics about the number, type, and duration of IGO investigations. However, to promote further transparency into IGO operations, the Inspector General ensures that the quarterly report includes summaries of concluded investigations resulting in disciplinary findings and recommendations. The report also includes summaries of IGO audits, reports, and other recommendations it transmitted to the City during the prior three month period.

Of particular concern to the IGO this quarter was the Illinois Supreme Court's decision in *Ferguson v. Patton*.

"Earlier this quarter, the Illinois Supreme Court ruled that this office cannot enforce its own subpoenas," said Inspector General Joseph Ferguson. "Despite that limitation in our authority, and the Mayor's refusal to either remedy that limitation or ensure the IGO has unfettered access to the documents and records we need to do our job, I am confident that IGO auditors, investigators, and attorneys will continue to take their work as far as they are able."

Investigative highlights from the report include:

- The IGO determined that a police officer had used his/her official assignment serving building violation court summonses for the City Law Department to generate business for a friend's private company that remediated the very same type of violations. However, despite agreeing that the misconduct likely occurred, the Chicago Police Department (CPD) declined to pursue any disciplinary action, citing purported procedural errors in the manner the IGO administered the officer's procedural guarantees. In short, the officer did not face any disciplinary charges because CPD and the Law Department do not distinguish official IGO investigations of police officers from complaints made by citizens.
- The IGO conducted an investigation that revealed that four current or former City of Chicago Department of Public Health (CDPH) employees embezzled City-purchased Jewel and Target gift cards that were supposed to be used to buy food and health-care

items for CDPH clients and their newborns, or given out to clients as an incentive to obtain medical treatment. Instead, the CDPH employees redeemed the cards for their own personal use.

- The IGO conducted an investigation that revealed that in the Spring of 2009, a former Department of Procurement Services (DPS) contracts compliance coordinator promoted and approved a minority-owned/woman-owned/disadvantaged business enterprise (M/W/DBE) pass-through scheme. In this case, a contractor for several O'Hare and Midway Residential Sound Insulation Program (RSIP) contracts purchased windows from non-M/W/DBE suppliers, but used M/W/DBE subcontractors as unnecessary middle-men in those transactions to inappropriately obtain M/W/DBE credit.
- An IGO investigation determined that an Animal Control Officer with the Commission on Animal Care and Control (ACC) repeatedly falsified work logs and timekeeping records to conceal the fact that he was routinely trapping stray cats and relinquishing them directly to a private shelter, rather than impounding them at ACC as required by ACC policy.

The full Report can be found online at the IGO website: www.chicagoinspectorgeneral.org. Follow the IGO on Twitter [@ChicagoIGO](https://twitter.com/ChicagoIGO) for the latest information on how the IGO continues to fight waste, fraud, abuse, and inefficiency in Chicago government.

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