



City of Chicago

**Office of the Legislative Inspector
General**

Semi-Annual Report

July 30, 2012



OFFICE OF THE LEGISLATIVE INSPECTOR GENERAL
CITY OF CHICAGO

July 30, 2012

The Committee on Committees, Rules and Ethics, and Citizens of Chicago:

Enclosed is the first public report on the operations of the Office of the Legislative Inspector General (OLIG), covering the first half of 2012, filed pursuant to Section 2-55-060(f) of the Municipal Code of Chicago (MCC). This report presents data regarding complaints and investigations currently being undertaken by the OLIG, and also seeks to apprise both government officials and members of the public of the work of the OLIG in order to create and maintain public confidence in the integrity of the Chicago City Council.

As you are aware, in order to provide oversight and accountability of members and staff of City Council, the City Council approved an ordinance creating the Office of the Legislative Inspector General in May 2010. The mission of the OLIG is to serve the City of Chicago as an independent, nonpartisan oversight office, by investigating allegations of misconduct by members and employees of the Chicago City Council. This includes, *but is not limited to*; the improper receipt of gifts or favors; the improper receipt of money or other items of value in exchange for advice or assistance on matters concerning city business; the improper and unauthorized use of city property; the improper use or disclosure of confidential information; conflicts of interest not properly disclosed; the improper solicitation or acceptance of political contributions; the improper use of one's position to influence any city government decision or action in which one has any economic interest; and/or the breach of one's fiduciary duty to the city.

In its day-to-day operations, the OLIG receives complaints alleging misconduct from the City of Chicago Board of Ethics (BOE), and/or members of the public. After receiving a signed and sworn complaint in person and/or with consent of the BOE, the OLIG undertakes both preliminary and formal investigations. At the conclusion of these investigations, the OLIG issues confidential reports of findings to the BOE, including, *but not limited to*, recommendations and dispositions, such as sustained or not-sustained findings of allegations per each respective complaint.

With the assistance and cooperation of the BOE, the OLIG was operational on the date of the appointment of the Legislative Inspector General (LIG).

To familiarize City Council members and staff, government employees, and the general public with the role and mission of the OLIG, the OLIG has engaged in several outreach activities, including the creation of a website (cityofchicago.org/olig, or oligchicago.com), distribution of informational posters to each Alderman's ward office, and formal and informal meetings with media members, governmental oversight groups, and a number of other public and private groups and individuals.

The OLIG's semi-annual report(s) will contain information on complaints received and the outcome of investigations resulting from those complaints. Summaries of investigations completed within that period will be reported.

To date, a great deal has been accomplished by the creation of the OLIG, as well as progress within the Office itself. Within thirty (30) days of inception, the OLIG drafted and completed its rules and regulations (as required by ordinance), and they became effective on March 5, 2012. In addition, a case tracking system has been implemented. And, as LIG, I have represented the OLIG at many public events, met with a number of members of other City agencies, the public, and the City Ethics Task Force on multiple occasions, and I regularly attend the monthly meetings of the Board of Ethics.

However, many challenges still remain for the OLIG, both on an administrative and a substantive level.

To date, due to prior budgetary restrictions, the LIG worked an average of nineteen (19) hours per week, or about seventy seven (77) hours a month. In order to complete investigations in a thorough, professional and timely manner, a minimum of thirty (30) hours a week needs to be committed to the OLIG, along with staffing of investigators, law enforcement personnel, and support staff, even at minimum levels. Once these needs are met, the OLIG will be able to complete investigations in a more timely and efficient manner, thereby avoiding issues such as missing evidence, failing memories, and an inability by prosecutorial parties to further pursue any matter.

From a substantive standpoint, while the OLIG has received a great deal of assistance from City Council in resolving matters, the current primary challenge is securing unqualified and unfettered access to emails, specifically to and from City Council members and staff. Once a proper procedure is agreed upon regarding email access, the OLIG will have gained a powerful tool to use in its investigations.

Despite the OLIG currently being a one-person office, it has not declined any valid complaints and/or investigations due to a lack of resources. I am of the firm belief that if selective investigation is engaged, the goal of oversight and law enforcement becomes severely compromised, and public confidence will erode.

In conclusion, I thank City Council for taking steps to achieve the noteworthy goal of ethics reform in this city by creating the OLIG. I applaud your efforts in creating this Office, as you have become aware of the unfortunate but profound need for oversight, not only to prevent

and uncover misconduct, but to provide citizens with a path to file complaints and have their voices heard.

As always, I encourage government employees, elected officials, and members of the public to do their part in eliminating misconduct in City Council by sending and referring your complaints to the OLIG. The success of this work requires the help and support of all people, private and public alike. Working together, we can ensure the highest degree of confidence in the integrity of the Chicago City Council and all of its staff.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Faisal Khan', written in a cursive style.

Faisal Khan
Legislative Inspector General
City of Chicago

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This semi-annual report provides an overview of the operations of the Office of the Legislative Inspector General (OLIG) during the period from December 1, 2011 through June 30, 2012. The report includes statistics and limited descriptions of the OLIG's activity that the OLIG is required to report per the City's Municipal Code.

A. MISSION OF THE OFFICE OF THE LEGISLATIVE INSPECTOR GENERAL

The OLIG is an independent, nonpartisan oversight office whose mission is to investigate allegations of misconduct by members and employees of the Chicago City Council (CCC). The OLIG receives complaints alleging misconduct and conducts investigations thereof at the request or with consent of the City of Chicago Board of Ethics (BOE), and/or members of the public. Based upon these investigations, the OLIG issues confidential reports of findings to the BOE, including, but not limited to, recommendations and dispositions such as sustained or not-sustained findings of allegations.

B. COMPLAINTS

The OLIG conducts investigations against members and employees of City Council. Should an investigation reveal sufficient information that could result in a criminal prosecution, the OLIG shall, as required by law, suspend its investigation and refer the matter to either the Office of the State's Attorney, or the Office of the U.S. Attorney.

Complaints:

The OLIG has received **twenty-one (21)** complaints over the preceding seven months.

	NUMBER OF COMPLAINTS
DEC 2011	3
JAN 2012	3
FEB 2012	3
MAR 2012	2
APR 2012	2
MAY 2012	4
JUNE 2012	4
TOTAL	21

Method of complaints:

	NUMBER OF COMPLAINTS
BY E-MAIL OR MAIL	2
BY FAX	0
BY PHONE	5
BY REFERRAL	10
OTHER	4
TOTAL	21

Nature of allegations/complaints:

	NUMBER OF COMPLAINTS
ABUSE OF AUTHORITY	7
PROHIBITED POLITICAL ACTIVITY	4
FALSE FILINGS	1
CAMPAIGN VIOLATIONS	1
OTHER	8
TOTAL	21

Number of signed and sworn complaints reduced to investigations:

	NUMBER OF COMPLAINTS
BY E-MAIL OR MAIL	2
BY FAX	0
BY PHONE	5
BY REFERRAL	9
OTHER	4
TOTAL	20

C. INVESTIGATIONS

Pending investigations:

	Pending Investigations
DECEMBER 2011	3
JANUARY 2012	3
FEBRUARY 2012	3
MARCH 2012	2
APRIL 2012	2
MAY 2012	3
JUNE 2012	4
TOTAL	20

Referred complaints and/or investigations:

	NUMBER OF COMPLAINTS
To the State's Attorney's Office	0
To the U.S. Attorney's Office	0
To the City Inspector General's Office	0
To another jurisdiction	0
To Board of Ethics	1
TOTAL	1

Completed investigations:

	NUMBER OF COMPLAINTS
DECEMBER 2011	0
JANUARY 2012	0
FEBRUARY 2012	0
MARCH 2012	0
APRIL 2012	0
MAY 2012	0
JUNE 2012	0
TOTAL	0

Number of interviews completed with complainants, witnesses, and subjects: 41

***A number of matters referred and/or completed are not within this reporting period, and will be documented in the Semi-Annual Report for July – December 2012.