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INSPECTOR GENERAL

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VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL

July 1, 2021

Mayor Lori E. Lightfoot
City of Chicago
121 N. LaSalle Street, 5th Fl.
Chicago, Illinois 60602

Ald. Patricia Dowell, Chair
City Council Committee on Budget
and Government Operations
121 N. LaSalle Street, Room 200
Chicago, Illinois 60602

Ald. Michelle Smith, Chair
City Council Committee on Ethics
and Government Oversight
121 N. LaSalle Street, Room 300
Chicago, Illinois 60602

Dear Mayor Lightfoot, Chairwoman Dowell and Chairwoman Smith:

I write to inform you of my intention to step down as the City's Inspector General at the close of business on October 15, 2021, which is the conclusion of my current appointed term. The Municipal Code of Chicago (MCC), Section 2-56-020, contemplates a period of at least 45 days to conduct an ordinance-mandated national search, selection and City Council-confirmed appointment of a new Inspector General. I am providing notice approximately 100 days before the conclusion of the current term for multiple reasons tied to the fact that selection process set forth in the MCC preceded, and therefore was not devised to account for, a number of subsequent developments respecting the Office of Inspector General (OIG) and the position of Inspector General.

First, during the Emanuel Administration, the City Council extended full jurisdiction of OIG to the City Council itself. As a result, the City Council's equities in the selection and appointment of the Inspector General are appreciably greater than at the time of my original appointment. Moreover, the next selection of a new Inspector General will also be the first time that the search and appointment process set out in MCC Section 2-56-020 is used for legislative oversight purposes. Second, as a matter of separate Emanuel-era legislation, OIG's operations include a Public Safety section which, by legislative design, functions in fully integrated fashion within OIG to provide dedicated oversight of the Chicago Police Department and related functions. The Public Safety section is led by an Inspector General-appointed and City Council-confirmed Deputy Public Safety Inspector General whose ordinance-protected term runs with the appointing Inspector General's term, all pursuant to MCC Section 2-56-220. As a result, the term of the current Public Safety Deputy expires

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with my term, which may constitute an additional consideration in the search for and selection of a new Inspector General. Notably, the simultaneous expiration of the terms of Inspector General and the Deputy Public Safety Inspector General may warrant additional selection considerations and concerns in relation to the City's obligations under the consent decree entered in *Illinois v. Chicago*, which among other things requires OIG's compliance with the national Green Book standards for oversight agencies. Finally, OIG exercises oversight of the Public Building Commission pursuant to an Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) entered under the authority set forth in MCC Sections 2-56-030(i) and -050. That IGA expires with the term of the Inspector General after which it must be renegotiated.

Because of the importance of independence in oversight, it is of high priority that the positions of Inspector General and Deputy Public Safety Inspector General not be filled by individuals in an acting capacity while a lengthy selection process unfolds; rather, it best serves the interests of the public and of all involved to ensure enough time for an orderly transition and continuity of operations whose independence accords with national standards. For these reasons, and with consideration for the tangent oversight personnel and operations specifically tied to the term of the Inspector General, I hereby provide this advance notice to allow the ordinance-mandated search and appointment process to be conducted with time for due deliberation for all parties in interest.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be "Joe Ferguson", with a stylized loop and a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Joe Ferguson
Inspector General