



OFFICE OF THE INSPECTOR GENERAL
Isabel Mercedes Cumming, Inspector General
City Hall, Suite 635
100 N. Holliday Street
Baltimore, MD 21202



July 15, 2021

Chairman Solicitor Jim Shea
Michael Huber, Chief of Staff
Councilwoman Sharon Middleton
Councilman Eric Costello
Deputy Comptroller Erika McCleary
Dean Donald Tobin
Dean Ronald Weich

Dear Honorable Advisory Board:

After listening to the City's Inspector General Advisory Board organizational meeting on July 13, 2021, it became clear to me that I needed to clarify the intent of the July 9, 2021, letter sent to Chairman Shea. The intent of the letter was to highlight the Association of Inspector General's (AIG) recommendation of best practices, advising against elected officials and their appointees serving on an OIG oversight board. Such a board composition "does not provide actual independence and objectivity from the governmental body". This Board appeared to focus on the part of the AIG quote which discussed qualifications and that was never the intent of my letter. The qualifications of this Board was not the issue, it is the fact individuals are a part of the investigative jurisdiction of the OIG that was the focus of my letter.

Transparency and accountability are the pillars of the Baltimore City OIG. Therefore, the Office of the Inspector supports a constructive Advisory Board review. I believe clarifying the July 9th letter is a critical part of making the review as constructive as possible. The intent was to make a record of an important issue for the citizens of Baltimore City so their interests will be served by following the best practices of Inspector General offices throughout the nation.

Sincerely yours,

Isabel Mercedes Cumming
Inspector General

REPORT FRAUD, WASTE AND ABUSE

HOTLINE: 443-984-3476/800-417-0430

EMAIL: OIG@BALTIMORECITY.GOV

WEBSITE: OIG.BALTIMORECITY.GOV