



**Metropolitan Water  
Reclamation District  
of Greater Chicago**



# **Office of the Independent Inspector General**

*“[T]o detect, deter and prevent corruption, fraud, waste, mismanagement, unlawful political discrimination or misconduct in the operation of County government.”*

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**Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago**

**Quarterly Report  
2nd Quarter 2019**

**July 12, 2019**

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OFFICE OF THE INDEPENDENT INSPECTOR GENERAL

**PATRICK M. BLANCHARD**  
INSPECTOR GENERAL

69 West Washington Street  
Suite 1160  
Chicago, Illinois 60602  
PHONE (312) 603-0350  
FAX (312) 603-9948

July 12, 2019

Via Electronic Mail

Honorable Kari K. Steele  
and Honorable Members of the Metropolitan  
Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago  
Board of Commissioners  
100 East Erie Street  
Chicago, Illinois 60601

Re: Independent Inspector General Quarterly Report (2nd Qtr. 2019)

Dear President Steele and Members of the Board of Commissioners:

As you know, on April 18, 2019 the Board of Commissioners of the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago (MWRD) adopted Ordinance O19-003 entitled Office of the Independent Inspector General (MWRD OIIG Ordinance) that has been designed to promote integrity and efficiency in government and provide independent oversight of the MWRD. Additionally, an Intergovernmental Agreement between the County of Cook and MWRD became effective by full execution of the parties on May 17, 2019 (Sec. II. Term of Agreement) thereby authorizing the OIIG to initiate operations relating to the MWRD. This quarterly report is written in accordance with Section 2-287 of the MWRD OIIG Ordinance to apprise you of the activities of this office during the time period beginning May 17, 2019 through June 31, 2019.<sup>1</sup>

**Background**

In accordance with the MWRD OIIG Ordinance, this office will publicly report the number and type of investigations initiated and concluded during the subject time period along with other relevant data concerning the activities of the office. Quarterly reports also set forth OIIG recommendations for remedial or other action following the completion of an investigation and track whether recommendations were adopted in whole or in part or otherwise not implemented by the MWRD.<sup>2</sup> Finally, quarterly reports also describe miscellaneous activities of the OIIG that may be of interest to MWRD officials, employees, contractors and members of the public.

<sup>1</sup> In accordance with Section 2-287, quarterly reports will be issued no later than the 15<sup>th</sup> day of January, April, July and October each year.

<sup>2</sup> Quarterly reports addressing the activities of the OIIG in connection with Cook County and the Forest Preserve District of Cook County can be found on-line at <https://www.cookcountyil.gov/service/public-statements-quarterly-reports-proposed-legislation>.



### **OIIG Case Activity**

In connection with the number of complaints received by the OIIG, please be aware we have received a total of 19 complaints during this reporting period.<sup>3</sup> This number also includes those matters resulting from the exercise of my own initiative (MWRD OIIG Ordinance Section Two (citing Cook County Code, Sec. 2-284(2))). Three complaints have been declined while 16 MWRD OIIG case inquiries have been initiated during this reporting period. Please be aware that no OIIG investigations have been initiated pending the inquiry review process. There have been no matters referred to management or other enforcement or prosecutorial agencies for further consideration. Finally, please be aware that the OIIG has not issued any summary reports as of yet.

### **Miscellaneous OIIG Activity**

Since May 17, 2019, the OIIG has focused on establishing internal protocols to integrate the MWRD into OIIG operations, orientating OIIG staff to the MWRD, setting up an MWRD office and conducting related activities. Current MWRD staff have been extremely helpful and supportive in this process. The MWRD office is in Room 352 of 100 East Erie Street. We have also had the opportunity to meet with each of you individually to discuss your perspective of an effective OIIG. Thank you for taking the time to meet with us.

It is contemplated that numerous existing OIIG staff members will be actively engaged in supporting the OIIG mission whether conducting or assisting in an investigation or review involving an MWRD issue. Additionally, we have dedicated two experienced investigators to the MWRD who are on-site. The first, Andrew Jester, who has been working at the MWRD for several weeks, is a senior OIIG Investigator having served in the office for eight years. Prior to joining the OIIG, Mr. Jester practiced law for 18 years, initially with the Office of the Cook County Public Defender and subsequently in private practice with a firm specializing in criminal defense and general litigation. Investigator Andrew Williams will be joining the MWRD team on-site in the coming days. Investigator Williams holds an MBA and is a Certified Fraud Examiner and Internal Controls Auditor who brings more than 10 years of experience as an IG investigator and auditor.

In order to develop an effective working relationship with MWRD staff, with the support of the Human Resources Department, we have scheduled over 40 presentations that will allow us to engage all MWRD staff personally. During the presentations, we will outline the role of the office and the responsibilities of all MWRD staff under the MWRD OIIG Ordinance and hope to develop a line of communication with MWRD staff as we move forward. We have also established

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<sup>3</sup> Upon receipt of a complaint, a triage/screening process of each complaint is undertaken. In order to streamline the OIIG process and maximize the number of complaints that will be subject to review, if a complaint is not initially opened as a formal investigation, it may also be reviewed as an "OIIG inquiry." This level of review involves a determination of corroborating evidence before opening a formal investigation. When the initial review reveals information warranting the opening of a formal investigation, the matter is upgraded to an "OIIG Investigation." Conversely, if additional information is developed to warrant the closing of the OIIG inquiry, the matter will be closed without further inquiry.

Hon. Kari K. Steele and Hon. Members of the  
MWRD Board of Commissioners  
July 12, 2019  
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an MWRD link on our webpage and are currently distributing notices to be presented at all MWRD facilities. A copy is attached for your information.

**Conclusion**

Thank you for your time and attention to these issues. Should you have any questions or wish to discuss this report further, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Very truly yours,



Patrick M. Blanchard  
Independent Inspector General

attch.

cc: Mr. Brian Perkovich, MWRD Executive Director





## **Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago**



# **OFFICE OF THE INDEPENDENT INSPECTOR GENERAL**

## **Your Rights and Duties Under the Independent Inspector General's Ordinance**

The Office of Independent Inspector General (OIIG) is authorized by ordinance to detect, deter and prevent corruption, fraud, waste, mismanagement, unlawful political discrimination and misconduct in the operation of the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago ("MWRD") (MWRD Ordinance O19-003 (April 18, 2019)).

If you are an employee of the MWRD, you have the following rights, duties, and responsibilities under the Independent Inspector General Ordinance:

- You have the right to be free from retaliation, harassment, threats or any other form of penalty or punishment for your cooperation with the OIIG.
- You have the right to maintain your confidentiality when communicating with the OIIG.
- You have the right to be treated with respect and professionalism when communicating with the OIIG.
- You have the right to register complaints and report information to the OIIG relative to corruption, fraud, waste, mismanagement, unlawful political discrimination and misconduct in the operation of the MWRD.
- You have the duty to report to the OIIG any and all information which you know to involve corruption, allegations of political discrimination in non-exempt positions, or other criminal activity by another MWRD employee or official which concerns his or her employment.
- You have the duty to cooperate with the OIIG in any investigation or program review when requested.
- You will be subject to discipline for retaliating against, punishing, harassing or threatening any other person for communicating, cooperating with or assisting the OIIG.
- You will be subject to discipline if you attempt to interfere or obstruct the OIIG in the conduct of any investigation or program review.

### **OIIG Contact Information**

<b>By Appointment:</b>	(312) 603-0350
<b>OIIG MWRD Office:</b>	(312) 751-6590
<b>24-Hour Hotline:</b>	(312) 603-0745 or (877) 448-4756 (IGTIPLN)
<b>Complaint Fax:</b>	(312) 603-9744
<b>OIIG Website:</b>	<a href="http://www.cookcountyil.gov/inspectorgeneral">www.cookcountyil.gov/inspectorgeneral</a>
<b>OIIG E-Mail:</b>	<a href="mailto:independent.inspectorgeneral@cookcountyil.gov">independent.inspectorgeneral@cookcountyil.gov</a>

**Patrick M. Blanchard**  
**Independent Inspector General, Cook County, Illinois**