



OFFICE OF THE INSPECTOR GENERAL

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NEWS RELEASE

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The OIG Finds the County Needs to Improve Continuity of Operations Planning

Rockville, Maryland – Montgomery County Maryland Inspector General Megan Davey Limarzi announced today the release of a new Office of the Inspector General (OIG) report, [*Continuity of Operations Planning*](#), OIG Publication # 24-01, detailing the results of an OIG review of the County's Continuity of Operations (COOP) planning efforts. The review was initiated in furtherance of the OIG's mission to promote efficiency and effectiveness in county programs and operations.

COOP planning is a recognized best practice to help ensure that organizations are able to withstand and recover from emergencies, and provide essential services during disruptions to normal operations. The County's COOP program is overseen by the Office of Emergency Management and Homeland Security (OEMHS). They are tasked with providing guidance and training to county offices and administering an on-line system to manage the county's COOP plans. County agencies and departments memorialize in a COOP Plan their essential functions, and the employees and resources needed to sustain these functions throughout any emergency or disruptive event.

The OIG discovered that although the County has taken steps to encourage COOP planning, there is no county-wide policy or local law that requires departments and offices to maintain updated plans or train staff on contingency measures. The OIG also found weaknesses in OEMH's oversight of the County's COOP program and deficiencies with individual COOP planning efforts. These shortcomings combined could impact the County's ability to provide critical services when they are most need.

The OIG made 10 recommendations aimed at improving continuity of operations planning which the County's Chief Administrative Officer agreed to takes steps to implement.

The full report can be found at the following location,
https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/OIG/Resources/Files/PDF/IGActivity/FY2024/OIG_24-01.pdf

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