



**Association of Inspectors General
P.O. Box 4628
New York, NY 10185-4628**

April 18, 2023

Inspector General Megan Davey Limarzi
51 Monroe Street, Suite 600
Rockville MD 20850

Dear Inspector General Davey Limarzi,

The Association of Inspectors General (AIG) performed a Peer Review of the Montgomery County Office of Inspector General (MC OIG) Audit & Program Review Division (APRD) and Inspections & Investigations Division (IID) at your request. The Peer Review Team (Team) evaluated the work of these two Divisions covering the period of July 1, 2018 through June 30, 2022. The Team performed the onsite review from April 17, 2023 to April 18, 2023 at your office located at 51 Monroe Street, Rockville, Maryland. The Peer Review assessed the work of the APRD and IID for compliance with the *Association of Inspectors General (AIG) Principles and Standards for Offices of Inspector General*, and the *United States General Accountability Office (GAO) Government Auditing Standards*. These standards are consistent with the qualitative standards under which your office's Divisions have operated throughout the review period.

The four person Peer Review Team consisted of the following individuals:

Team Leader

Flora Miller, Regional Investigator / Accreditation Manager
Department of Children and Families (FL) Office of Inspector General

Team Member

Andrew Blimes, Director of Investigations
Department of Education (FL) Office of Inspector General

Team Member

Darwyn Jones, Deputy Inspector General for Audit and Program Review
City of Chicago (IL) Office of Inspector General

Team Member

James Smith, Deputy Director of Cyber and Data
Washington Area Metropolitan Transit Authority (D.C.) Office of Inspector General

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On behalf of the Team, I am pleased to advise that we found no reportable instances of failure to meet these standards. There are no limitations or qualifications on our opinion. It is the unanimous conclusion of the Team that APRD and IID met all relevant AIG and/or, GAO standards for the period under review.

The remainder of this letter sets forth the purpose, scope, and methodology of the Peer Review.

Purpose

The Team conducted an independent, qualitative review of the operations of APRD and IID of the MC OIG focusing on compliance with agreed-upon standards.

Scope

The Peer Review covered APRD and IID operations, resulting work products, and related file materials chosen from closed and/or completed work products during the scope of the Peer Review. The Peer Review's scope also covered each Divisions' compliance with their relevant policy and process manuals and procedural guides; staff qualifications; and professional training requirements. Lastly, the Peer Review assessed supervisory review and quality control over the work product, reporting of results, and the MC OIG relationship and communications with outside agencies. For this last step, the Peer Review Team met with external stakeholders with whom the MC OIG frequently work, or who are the recipients of MC OIG work products.

Method

The Peer Review Team generally followed the Peer Review/Qualitative Assessment Review Checklists developed by the AIG Peer Review Committee. These Checklists are based on the relevant AIG and/or GAO Quality Standards. The Team also called upon their own professional experience as senior managers of various Offices of Inspector General and through their knowledge of and familiarity with best practices within the Inspector General community.

Prior to the actual onsite review, the Team requested information from both APRD and IID, including but not limited to policy and procedures manuals, closed case logs, a list of issued reports, and a list of external stakeholders. The Team used this information to select the work products and related case materials that were ultimately reviewed.

On April 17, 2023, the Team held an entrance conference with you and your executive leadership, during which time we explained the Peer Review scope, methodology, limitations, and proposed schedule. During that morning, we also delivered our request for sample review materials. During the week, the Peer Reviewers conducted their fieldwork through examination of the selected case files. Peer Reviewers also

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interviewed staff from APRD and IID. Interviewees for both Divisions included Division Chiefs as well as the Special Assistant Inspector General for Administration (SAIG).

The Team also reviewed the personnel files of current executive staff, APRD, and IID employees and reviewed their Training and Continuing Education files, and all relevant policy and process manuals and procedural guides. All file requests were met fully and timely.

Team members also met with you and your Deputy Inspector General (DIG), Francisco “Frank” da Rosa, to gauge your involvement and interaction with APRD and IID.

The Team conducted all interviews in confidence and without any limitation on scope or time. Reviewers requested follow-up interviews and explanations, as well as any supplemental documentation, and MC OIG staff graciously accommodated the Team.

The Team also independently chose several external stakeholders to interview. Meetings were arranged between the Peer Reviewers and the external stakeholders for the purpose of evaluating agency cooperation, effectiveness, and responsiveness. Stakeholders included representatives from the:

- Montgomery County, Council Members
- Montgomery County Ethics Commission
- Montgomery County Administration

Finally, the Team held an exit conference with you and your executive leadership on April 18, 2023, during which time the Team shared its conclusion that the two Divisions fully met respective AIG and/or GAO standards. Team members provided you with our observations and opinions gathered during the review. We held separate exit conferences with the Chiefs of each Division. During each of these exit conferences, Peer Review Team members elaborated on the observations made during the week of review. In each of the exit conferences, Team members provided several observations that did not limit or qualify the opinion of the Peer Review, but were shared with you and your leadership team as possible areas of consideration going forward. Throughout the week, we had productive discussions with MC OIG members (from the leadership to professional staff) regarding their positive experiences from past Peer Reviews and their affirming opinions about the Peer Review process.

As noted above, it is the unanimous conclusion of the Peer Review Team that both the APRD and IID met all current and relevant AIG and/or GAO IIA standards for the review period.

On behalf of the AIG, I want to thank you for the confidence placed in the Association by requesting that we conduct this review. On behalf of the Peer Review Team, we would like to acknowledge and thank Inspector General Megan Davey Limarzi, and your designees, DIG Francisco “Frank” da Rosa and SAIG Becky Bolat, for all their efforts in

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the coordination and planning of this event and for ensuring that we were provided with the necessary records and tools for a thorough and smooth review. Lastly, on behalf of the Team, we would like to recognize that in all of our interactions with your staff, we were shown the respect and cooperation that is the hallmark of a professional staff truly interested in a full and open review of their work. At the same time, this has been a learning experience for each member of the Peer Review Team, for which we wish to convey our sincerest thanks.

Please feel free to contact me or any member of the Peer Review Team if you have any questions.

Yours truly,



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Flora Miller
Team Leader, AIG Peer Review for Montgomery County Office of Inspector General (April 2023)

cc:

Flora Miller, AIG Peer Review Committee Chair
Andrew Blimes, Team Member, AIG Peer Review for MC OIG, April 2023
Darwyn Jones, Team Member, AIG Peer Review for MC OIG, April 2023
James Smith, Team Member, AIG Peer Review for MC OIG, April 2023