

MEMORANDUM

TO: Ed Blansitt, Inspector General
FROM: Montgomery County Inspector General Advisory Group
DATE: October 12, 2012
RE: Consideration of Fiscal Year 2013 Work Plan

The Inspector General Advisory Group (the Group) held a meeting by teleconference on October 2, 2012, to review the Inspector General's Fiscal Year (FY) 2013 Work Plan (the Plan). Joe Gardemal, Bonnie Kirkland, Don Jodrie, and Thomas Phan participated on the call. In addition, Jerome Brown participated in a follow-up call on October 12, 2012.

Following our detailed review of the Plan, we developed the following recommendations:

LOWER PRIORITY INITIATIVES

1. Proposed deletions. We agree with the IG's preliminary decision to delete the "Selected reviews of housing programs" and "County enforcement of prevailing wage laws" from the Plan, assuming that no credible citizen complaints have been received to date in these areas.
2. Brickyard. We understand that, in a September 27, 2012, ruling in the MPIA/Brickyard matter, the Court found that the County engaged in appropriate efforts to locate the information requested by the citizen group that was the subject of the litigation. We therefore believe it unlikely that additional work on this matter by the IG will result in significant findings.
3. Department of Permitting Services implementation of technology initiatives. We assess this project as a relatively low priority, in the absence of specific complaints regarding cost or time overruns.
4. Risk Management Programs - Report on Workers' Compensation. The Group's sense is that this project would be complex and long-term, and that, if implemented, this review should focus on specific complaints or a limited area of the County's insurance purchases.

5. Selected construction projects. To the extent the IG engages in his proposed review of possible improper payments throughout the County's disbursements cycle, the Group agrees that an audit of selected construction projects should be undertaken only if the IG has information that indicates a particularly high risk of irregularities in one or two specific projects.
6. Selected service contract awards and oversight. We agree with the OIG staff's assessment that this project may be too ambitious at this time and should be a lower priority. However, if they were to receive specific complaints, this may be an area of interest.

HIGHER PRIORITY INITIATIVES

1. Selected revenue collections and related controls. The Group considers this to be a critical area for the IG to review, and Group members have specific recommendations as to departments that should be considered.
2. Selected payments, possible improper payments, and related controls. The Group believes that this is an important area for consideration, and would like to understand what specific risk criteria the IG will use to select disbursements for testing.
3. Audits of M-NCPPC and Department of Liquor Control. The Group believes that these two audits should be the IG's top priorities once FY 2012 Plan items are completed.
4. Economic Development Fund audit. The Group strongly supports the IG's plan to audit this fund.

ADDITIONAL AREA FOR CONSIDERATION

In addition to our recommendations related to the Plan items, the Group suggests that, considering recent citizen complaints, the IG consider a post-election review of the Montgomery County Board of Elections' processes related to the addition and deletion of voters from its voter rolls.

We would be happy to discuss these comments in further detail at your convenience.