



OFFICE OF THE INSPECTOR GENERAL
Montgomery County, Maryland



**Testimony in support of Bill 27-22,
Administration-Inspector General-Powers and Duties**

Good afternoon, Council President Alborno, Council Vice-President Glass, and members of the Council.

My name is Megan Davey Limarzi, and I am the Inspector General for Montgomery County. I am here today to speak in favor of Bill 27-22 which amends county law regarding the powers and duties of the Office of the Inspector General (OIG). I would like to begin this afternoon by thanking the Government Operations and Fiscal Policy Committee for introducing this bill. The modifications before the Council will enhance OIG's ability to effectively provide the oversight that is both necessary and expected in a jurisdiction like Montgomery County; a county with a \$6.5B operating budget and programs, agencies, and departments serving over a million residents.

Bill 27-22 includes a series of amendments to county law. The language contained therein generally updates certain sections of the law such as the change in the make-up of the Council from 9 to 11 members; applies principals of inclusive language; and aligns the law's timing requirements for the IG to produce a proposed budget and four-year work plan. Additional changes contained in Bill 27-22 would strengthen the OIG's authorities; ensure unfiltered access to documents and information; and remediate ambiguities related to the OIG's access to contractors and audits done on behalf of the county or county agencies. Furthermore, the bill strengthens the OIG's subpoena powers and provides explicit protections against retaliation for all persons, not just county employees or contractors, who bring forward allegations of fraud, waste, abuse, or mismanagement.

The Association of Inspectors General Principals and Standards for Offices of Inspectors General and the organization's model legislation detail best practices and essential powers for inclusion in enabling legislation so that an OIG is afforded ample tools to do its business in a manner that is of the highest quality. The changes contained in Bill 27-22 align with those principals and will further the Montgomery County OIG's ability to produce work that is timely, fair, objective, reliable, and accurate.

Thank you for your continued support of the OIG and our mission.