

Employee Cooperation with the Office of the Inspector General

A core principle of my vision for a more equitable and inclusive Montgomery County is making County Government more effective, and sustainable. The Montgomery County Office of the Inspector General (OIG) is a valued partner in pursuing economy, efficiency, and effectiveness in county programs and operations and helping to prevent and detect waste, fraud, abuse, and mismanagement. The OIG provides independent oversight through its audits, reviews, evaluations, and investigations which help to identify ways to improve government's work. The OIG also promotes accountability by investigating possible wrongdoing. The OIG's independent, yet complementary function, helps ensure the integrity of County Government and shows the residents that we remain good stewards of public resources and the public trust.

I fully support the independent OIG and expect all County employees to cooperate fully with its valuable endeavors. All County employees and contractors have a duty to report any fraud, waste, or abuse to their supervisors, other County officials, or the Office of the Inspector General.

As a reminder, under County Code Section 2-151,

- County employees are not to withhold information, refuse to respond to a valid request for information, or give false or misleading information related to audits, inspections, investigations, or other OIG inquiries.
- The Inspector General is legally entitled to, and all employees and contractors must promptly provide, any documents or other information concerning county operations, budget, or programs that the Inspector General requests.
- An employee or contractor who provides information to or cooperates with the Office of the Inspector General must not be retaliated against, penalized, or threatened with penalty or retaliation for assisting the Inspector General in connection with any activity of that Office.

In conducting its work, the OIG will maintain employee confidentiality to the extent possible and consistent with the OIG's legal obligations. The OIG makes efforts to coordinate with employees to avoid major disruption, respect sensitive materials, and comport with all its responsibilities under the law. The OIG receives complaints at any time by phone, email and online through the following:

• Website: https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/oig

• Email: <u>IG@montgomerycountymd.gov</u>

• Phone: 240-777-7644 (70IG)

Thank you for your efforts to ensure that Montgomery County continues to thrive and is a model of effective and responsible government.

Marc Elrich County Executive