



OFFICE OF THE INSPECTOR GENERAL

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NEWS RELEASE

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MPIA Requirements Not Fully Met by County Departments

Rockville, Maryland – Montgomery County Maryland Inspector General Megan Davey Limarzi announced today the release of the results of an OIG investigation, [MPIA Compliance Issues with Police and Other Department Websites, OIG Publication # 21-002](#), examining Montgomery County Government’s compliance with the Maryland Public Information Act (MPIA).

The Office of the Inspector General (OIG) examined the County’s efforts to provide the public with contact information required under the MPIA. Generally, the County and its departments publish MPIA required information in several locations on their websites. As part of the review, the OIG examined the County’s website, the Montgomery County Department of Police’s website, and the websites of 10 randomly selected County Departments. The investigation noted various issues in 7 of the 12 websites reviewed.

Aside from not being compliant with law, the OIG noted ambiguous language, particularly on the Department of Police page, that could prevent and discourage those seeking information from obtaining what they are lawfully entitled to. Such ambiguity is also inconsistent with the County’s commitment to transparency.

The MPIA grants a broad right to public records to any person, regardless of whether they are aggrieved parties or classified as persons of interest. The MPIA requires a governmental unit’s MPIA contact to be identified by name on the unit’s website or maintained in a place easily accessible by the public; and that the contact’s business address, business phone number, electronic mail address, and the unit’s internet address also be included.

The full report, including the administration’s response and concurrence with the investigation’s findings can be found at the following location, [MPIA Compliance Issues with Police and Other Department Websites, OIG Publication # 21-002](#).

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