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**OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL SAYS THAT THE QARC FAILED TO OBTAIN
SUFFICIENT EVIDENCE TO SUPPORT ITS CONCLUSIONS**

The Office of Inspector General (OIG) today, in its response to the Quality Assurance Review Advisory Committee (QARC) Report, expressed concern at the QARC's failure to gather the appropriate and sufficient evidence to support the conclusions in its report.

The annual QAR was released today by the Ethics Review Board (ERB), which oversees the OIG. The report contains a number of errors, omissions, and misstatements about the OIG's work and its approach to its work. The OIG's response to the report also was released by the ERB.

The ordinance that created the OIG calls for a committee of citizens appointed by the City Council, the Mayor, and the Ethics Review Board each year to review reports published by the OIG during the previous year. The scope of work of the QARC is properly limited to assessing the quality of work released by the OIG.

Previous QARC reports fulfilled their mandate of assessing the quality of published OIG work products. This QARC report instead passed judgment on OIG training, use of time, hiring, approach to projects, selection of projects, and decisions related to its on-going risk assessment. These subjects are properly the subject of management decisions by the Inspector General and the oversight by the Ethics Review Board.

In addition, the QARC report made a number of unfounded assertions about the OIG that could have been avoided if the committee had asked questions, sought to clarify information, or requested appropriate documentation. For example:

- The QAR stated that the OIG was violating its ordinance by not having a Division of Performance Review. In fact, one group in the office is called the Audit & Review division, as in performance review. The Audit & Review Division and the Inspections & Evaluations Division both produce reports that, are in fact, performance reviews.
- The QAR stated that "The OIG did not undertake any performance reviews in 2018." This statement is false. The OIG did not *release* any performance reviews in 2018, but it had several under way. This statement is puzzling because the OIG provided the QARC with monthly reports describing the status of on-going work.
- The QAR stated that the OIG spent "significant time on matters other than audits, investigations, and inspections/evaluations" because staff members had out-of-town travel. The QARC did not

inquire as to the amount of time spent out-of-town nor did the committee request documents to support the assertion that the time was “significant.” A staff member was invited to speak at the Association of Inspectors General (AIG) Institute in Jacksonville, Fla., and New York, NY. The total travel was six days in 2018, and all travel expenses were paid by the AIG. Additionally, as a requirement to receive a peer review from the AIG, OIG offices “must provide staff to conduct similar reviews for other AIG member agencies.”

Other examples can be found in the OIG’s response to the QAR.

Inspector General Derry Harper stated that because the committee failed to ask appropriate questions and clarify information, the process that produced the report was flawed, and the ERB, the City Council, and the public should not rely upon the conclusions of the report.

The OIG also solidly rejects the QARC’s suggestion that the City Council should change the OIG ordinance so that the citizen committee can review pending and unreleased work products. Such a move would violate state law as well as standards set by the Association of Inspectors General.

There is no doubt 2018 was a year of transition at the OIG. Much of our work was behind the scenes as we sought to make sure the office was functioning at its best as we move forward. We focused on training so that employees could work in the most effective way possible. We embarked on a risk assessment so that we could ensure we select projects that are best for the community. And while the risk assessment is pending, we started a new round of projects on a subject that is important to everyone: the Sewerage & Water Board.

As noted in the QAR, the OIG released reports on two investigations in 2018: one about tickets, and the other about handicap parking tags. We had several audits that were substantially complete in 2018, but delayed release until a General Counsel was hired to conduct a legal review.

We thank the members of the QARC for their service and look forward to setting the record straight at the public meeting on June 10, 2019.