



OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL  
JEFFERSON PARISH

DAVID N. McCLINTOCK  
INSPECTOR GENERAL



**DATE:** June 13, 2017

**TO:** Parish President Michael S. Yenni

**FROM:** David McClintock, Inspector General *DM*

**RE:** Non-compliance with JPCO 2-155.10(12)

The Jefferson Parish Council by ordinance gave to the Inspector General the following authority and access:

- (12) *Powers.* At all times the inspector general shall have access to any building or facility that is owned, operated or leased by the parish or any department, agency, board, commission, or any property held in trust to the parish. JPCO 2-155.10(12)

This ability to independently *access* Parish facilities is necessary to the effective performance of this office.

**“Powers” of Office of Inspector General:** Based upon the aforementioned ordinance this office continues to work diligently to fulfill its charge of conducting “a full-time program of investigation, audit, inspections, and performance review to provide increased accountability and oversight” to parish government and those entities receiving parish funding. JPCO 2-155.10(2)

This office has been seeking swipe card access to Parish facilities for approximately 10 months. This access is required to ensure operational independence pursuant to JPCO 2-155.10(7)(a) as follows:

The office of inspector general shall be operationally independent from the legislative and executive branches of the parish, including the parish council . . . .  
"Operationally independent" shall mean that the neither the parish council, the parish president, nor any employee of the parish shall prevent, impair, or prohibit the inspector general from initiating, carrying out, or completing any audit, investigation, inspection or performance review.

The JPOIG offered the following position via email on 08/31/2016, following unsuccessful discussions to secure card swipe access:

It is our position that the JPOIG is authorized to have access to all Parish facilities 24/7 by ordinance. We do not currently have this access. I do not see a confirmation or affirmation regarding our position on physical access. As I communicated during the meeting, I believe that our access cards (or designated staff of JPOIG) should be activated to permit our access/or that we are otherwise provided card access. At this point in time, we agree that we would not access Parish buildings without being accompanied by [your designated staff].

Despite our offer to permit the administration's designated staff person to accompany us, your administration continues to prohibit card swipe access.

On 01/12/2017 I forwarded the attached formal memorandum on the matter to you. Further, in an email dated 01/19/2017, Mr. Keith Conley, Chief Operating Officer, indicated to me that he had been instructed to look into the attached request. Additionally, in an email dated 01/26/2017, Mr. Conley indicated that he had been "forwarded [the JPOIG] demand for 24/7 access to all JP facilities for my immediate attention and response." Lastly, in a multi-issue email of 02/09/2017, I noted under the header of Facility Access that:

The OIG is independent and requires only cooperation in this area. The process of acting independently cannot be one founded on conditions established by entities upon which we are charged with conducting audits and investigations. Eliminating that element of control [would eliminate one of the] foundations of an IG."

The JPOIG has the independent authority to lawfully conduct our audits and investigations without conditions imposed by the administration. It has been nearly 6 months since the Memorandum of 01/12/2017 and nearly 10 months since the issue was first raised. It has become clear to me that the administration does not place a priority on the JPOIG's operational independence.

Based upon this unfortunate course of action, I am publicly calling on your administration to provide the requested swipe card access. Further, I am no longer comfortable committing to include your staff should we require to access to Parish facilities.

cc: Chairman Christopher L. Roberts  
Councilwoman Cynthia Lee-Sheng  
Councilman Ricky J. Templet  
Councilman Paul D. Johnston  
Councilman Mark D. Spears  
Councilwoman Jennifer Van Vrancken  
Councilman Jack Rizzuto  
Chairman Carroll Suggs, Ethics and Compliance Commission  
Vice Chairman Kyle Marks, Ethics and Compliance Commission  
Commissioner, Warren Bourgeois, Ethics and Compliance Commission  
Commissioner, Maria Cisneros, Ethics and Compliance Commission  
Commissioner, Paul LaRosa, Ethics and Compliance Commission  
Parish Attorney, Michael Power  
General Counsel Steven Sheckman, Ethics and Compliance Commission



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JEFFERSON PARISH



DAVID N. McCLINTOCK  
INSPECTOR GENERAL

January 12, 2017

Mr. Michael S. Yenni  
Parish President  
Joseph S. Yenni Building, 1002  
1221 Elmwood Park Boulevard  
Jefferson, Louisiana 70123

VIA EMAIL ONLY

RE Compliance with JPCO 2-155(12)

Dear Mr. Yenni:

Please be advised that JPCO 2-155.10 (12) provides that “[a]t all times the inspector general shall have access to any building or facility that is owned, operated or leased by the parish or any department, agency, board, commission, or any property held in trust to the parish.” Presently, the JPOIG does not have access to Parish buildings and facilities at all times. The lack of access impairs and impedes the JPOIG’s ability to fully meet its oversight obligations.

The lack of access has previously been discussed with your Administration, but the issue has not been resolved. As an initial step toward compliance by the Parish, we have previously requested that the JPOIG be provided access to the Yenni building and GGB via security access cards in a like manner and with like permissions currently provided to you, your staff and others, including but not limited to the director of the Department of General Services and General Services’ employees.

I respectfully request that you direct your Administration to cooperate with the JPOIG on this issue by directing that JPOIG security cards be enabled to permit the access described above.

Finally, the Ethics and Compliance Commission has been apprised of this situation and our request. The Commission will be updated on your cooperation at its next meeting which is scheduled for Wednesday, January 18, 2016.

Respectfully,

David N. McClintock

Enclosure

cc:

Carroll Suggs, Ethics and Compliance Commission  
Warren Bourgeois, Ethics and Compliance Commission  
Maria Cisneros, Ethics and Compliance Commission  
Paul LaRosa, Ethics and Compliance Commission  
Kyle Marks, Ethics and Compliance Commission  
Steven Scheckman, Attorney - Ethics and Compliance Commission