



## ASSOCIATION OF INSPECTORS GENERAL

524 West 59th Street, 53334HH  
New York, NY, 10019  
212-237-8001

December 5, 2024

### **Jefferson Parish Council**

Honorable Scott A. Walker, Council Chairman, Division B

Honorable Jennifer Van Vrancken, Councilwoman Division A

Honorable Marion F. Edwards, Councilman District 1

Honorable Deano Bonano, Vice-Chairman, Councilman, District 2

Honorable Byron Lee, Councilman District 3

Honorable Arita Bohannon, Councilwoman District 4

Honorable Hans Liljeberg, Councilman District 5

Dear Chairman Walker and Council Members:

The Association of Inspectors General (AIG) is a non-partisan, independent 501(c)(3) organization with over 2,500 members serving in hundreds of Inspectors General (IG) offices across the United States and internationally. For nearly 30 years, the AIG has been dedicated to promoting best practices and advancing the mission of independent oversight in government.

The AIG has been closely following recent developments in Jefferson Parish, Louisiana surrounding proposed amendments to the Office of Inspector General ordinance, which we understand are scheduled for consideration by the Jefferson Parish Council on December 11, 2024. In response, we wish to address significant concerns raised by the proposed changes.

The amendments are contrary to the AIG *Principles and Standards for Offices of Inspector General* and well-established practices for local, state and federal OIGs. Best practices for OIGs, including those found in Jefferson Parish OIG's ordinance, establish opportunities for meaningful and transparent communication between the OIG and the public. The proposed amendments, however, would permanently weaken the Jefferson

Parish OIG's ability to fulfill its essential function of keeping the public informed about its work as a government oversight watchdog.

The proposed amendments are substantially similar to the American Bar Association's guidelines for Prosecution Function, Standard 3-10.10 Relationship with Media, or other similar guidelines for prosecutors to protect individual due process rights in criminal matters. An inspector general's role is fundamentally different and the enabling legislation of most OIGs expressly provides for public reporting to hold government agencies accountable to the people they serve.

The proposed amendments risk depriving the Jefferson Parish OIG of its well-established ability to maintain its independence in carrying out effective government oversight through direct engagement with the citizens of Jefferson Parish about the work it does to promote efficiency and combat fraud, waste and abuse.

Should the amendments become law, Jefferson Parish would legislate the permanent weakening of an Office of Inspector General with a successful record in promoting efficiency and establishing accountability with Jefferson Parish citizens.

The AIG strongly urges the Jefferson Parish Council to reject these proposed amendments. Protecting the OIG's independence and the essential function of engagement with the public is vital to preserving public trust, ensuring good governance, and fostering accountability. The enactment of these amendments would ultimately weaken Jefferson Parish's commitment to be accountable to its citizens through effective oversight—something no democratic society can afford.

Sincerely,



Will Fletcher  
President, Association of Inspectors General