



2024 City of Dallas Charter Review Commission

Proposed Amendment #83

Submitted by:	Location:	Category:
City of Dallas Ethics Reform Task Force City of Dallas Ethics Advisory Commission	NEW	Policy
NEW Establish the Office of Inspector General (“OIG”) as a fully independent division of the City, similar to the City Manager, City Secretary, City Auditor, and City Attorney, thus providing the OIG with the independence that is needed to effectively operate and conduct investigations without interference and without the limitations actually and practically imposed by virtue of the OIG being a division of the City Attorney’s Office.		
Rationale: The proposed amendment follows the original intent of the Task Force Report. At the time of the Council’s unanimous adoption and implementation of the recommendations made in the Task Force Report in December 2021, it was determined that an amendment to the City Charter would be required to establish the OIG as a new independent division, and that such Charter amendment proposal could be most efficiently done as part of the work of the 2023-2024 Charter Review Commission. This proposal follows that plan. Of course, the proposed amendment does require the approval and recommendation of the Charter Review Commission and the City Council before being presented to voters for approval. As an interim solution, it was determined that the OIG could best be placed as a division of the City Attorney’s Office. Moving the OIG to an independent division of the city under the Charter provides the following benefits that are essential to ensure fair results and build public confidence, and they also adhere to best practices under Green Book Standards: <ul style="list-style-type: none">•Maximizes independence and eliminates conflicts of interests for the operations, programs, policies, and procedures over which the OIG has authority.•Frees the OIG from interference in investigating cases that can occur when the OIG is under the supervision of another body.•Allows the OIG to fully exercise its jurisdiction for investigation of fraud and corruption that could be impaired by competing interests if the OIG is under the supervision of another body.•Ensures the confidentiality of the OIG investigation process.•Independence creates a real and perceived deterrent.		

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<https://dallascityhall.com/departments/government-affairs/Charter-Review/Pages>



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Peer cities that have recently established their own offices of inspector general, like Atlanta, Baltimore, New York, and Philadelphia, follow these standards. In implementing this proposal, we will protect the integrity of the OIG and instill the trust and confidence of our citizens in the OIG.

A detailed proposal can be presented to the Charter Review Commission at the appropriate time.