



Howard County Inspector General Advisory Board

George Howard Building
3430 Court House Drive
Ellicott City, Maryland 21043-4392

BOARD MEMBERS
David Salem, Chair
Mitchell Stahm, Vice Chair
Michael Cummins
Vernon Curry
Dennis Raschka
Katy Sedney

Minutes - Unapproved

Inspector General Advisory Board Meeting
Thursday, September 17, 2026
Hybrid Meeting (C. Vernon Gray Room and Virtual Meeting)
Video Streamed on <https://cc.howardcountymd.gov/watch-us>
6:30 pm

Advisory Board Members Present: Chair David Salem, Vice Chair Mitch Stahm, Michael Cummins, Vernon Curry, Dennis Raschka, and Katy Sedney.

Staff Present: Kelly Madigan, Inspector General; Amanda Mihill, Senior Assistant County Solicitor; Frank Lopez, Deputy Inspector General; Nick Rinehart, Legislative Analyst, and Isaiah Anderson, Executive Assistant I, were present.

Chair Salem opened the meeting at 6:30 p.m.

Introduction of Deputy Inspector General

Frank Lopez, Deputy Inspector General, appeared before the Board to make some introductory remarks. Mr. Lopez detailed his prior experience with the Maryland State Police and emphasized his roots and personal connections to Howard County. Board members welcomed Mr. Lopez and stated they look forward to working with him.

Introduction of New IG Advisory Board Member

Chair Salem recognized Mr. Cummins as the newest member of the IG Advisory Board and invited him to make some introductory remarks. Mr. Cummins made introductory remarks before the Board, gave details about his professional background, and explained his interest in serving on the Board.

Inspector General Update

Kelly Madigan, Inspector General, appeared before the Board to give an update and overview of the activities of the Office of Inspector General (OIG).

Ms. Madigan began her update with an overview on staffing the OIG; she stated that in addition to hiring Mr. Lopez, the OIG has made conditional offers for two investigators scheduled to start in the fall, with one starting on September 21st. In addition, the OIG has hired a college intern from the University of Maryland. Ms. Madigan's update included a discussion on systems access from the Administration, and establishing Inspector General business flows and procedures. In addition, Ms. Madigan stated that her office so far has received 101 total complaints, which has led to 18 open cases, and 13 cases that are currently under investigation. Ms. Madigan also discussed the OIG employee training course, which was nearing rollout to initial County agencies, with the goal of broader Countywide implementation by the end of the calendar year.

There was a general discussion between the Inspector General and Board members, where Board members asked questions about the designated office space for the OIG, the litigation happening in Baltimore City and about whether the lack of access to records is impeding the Inspector General from completing investigations.

Update on MPIA Litigation in Baltimore City

Chair Salem provided an update to the Board about the Maryland Public Information Act (MPIA) litigation in Baltimore City between the Mayor's Office and the Inspector General. He gave a summary of what he heard while attending the July 28th hearing, and stated that yesterday, the judge ordered that Baltimore City must respond to the subpoenas and must reinstate direct access to City platforms.

Chair Salem also pointed out that this is a Baltimore City decision that does not have full legal force in Howard County but explained that he felt the consequences of the rulings need to be carefully considered here, and that the Board should ensure that it gets a full airing in this County after the written orders come out.

There was general discussion amongst Board members and the Inspector General regarding the details of the litigation, implications for Howard County, and what actions the Board could take in the interim, if any.

Inspector General Performance Evaluation Criteria – Update

Chair Salem gave an update to the Board on the performance plan the Board intends to use in their evaluation of the Inspector General. He provided a revised draft, created by Mr. Raschka and Ms. Sedney, to the Board members for their review and feedback.

Mr. Salem then proposed that, given the limitations of systems access for the Inspector General, the Board reduce the proposed evaluation criteria to 3 categories for this year's evaluation: Outreach, Performance and Professionalism. He indicated that as a next step, the Board would then need to agree on a rating for each metric.

There was general discussion among Board members that included further questions and details about the 3 proposed evaluation categories. Mr. Salem asked Ms. Madigan if she would like to review the performance plan; Ms. Madigan declined, stating that she didn't feel comfortable participating in that discussion since the Board would be discussing her performance.

Discussion of IG Advisory Board Annual Report

Chair Salem opened the floor to discuss the IG Advisory Board's annual report, including content, preparation, and next steps. He proposed certain topics to cover in the report, including the assistance the Board has provided in getting appropriate space for OIG offices, creating an appropriate performance plan, evaluating the IG's performance and assisting in first-year operational matters. Board members generally agreed on the proposed topics.

Discussion ensued among Board members regarding other possible proposed topics. Chair Salem indicated that Board members could share any additional topics with him, as they come up, and proposed a deadline of December 14th to have the final draft report, along with the Inspector General's report, ready to submit to the County Executive and County Council. The Board agreed with the proposed timeline.

IG Advisory Board Vacancy - Update

Chair Salem and Vice-Chair Stahm updated the Board that there is legislation proposed by the County Council currently to nominate a new IG Advisory Board member to fill the vacancy left by Steve Quisenberry.

Mr. Rinehart gave a further update that the nominee, Julia Zhu, is scheduled to appear before the Council at their September 22nd public hearing to testify. In addition, Mr. Rinehart explained to the Board that the Council would officially vote on Ms. Zhu's appointment at their October 5th legislative session, and, if approved, Ms. Zhu would be able to join the next IG Advisory Board meeting in December.

Other Business

Chair Salem discussed the following items with the Board:

(1) Meeting jointly with Council and County Executive. Chair Salem indicated that the Board is required by County Code to have this joint meeting with the County Council and County Executive. Mr. Anderson indicated that he and Mr. Rinehart would work on checking the availability of the County Executive and County Council, and the availability of the Board members, and look to schedule this meeting in October.

(2) Amending the Board's Rules and Procedures to add a definition of ministerial functions to include performance evaluation of IG. Chair Salem proposed these changes for the Board to consider in 2027. Board members generally agreed.

3) Consider taking a more active role in County response to the impact of the Baltimore City IG rulings. Chair Salem proposed this in response to the comments from Councilmembers about the Board doing more to advocate on behalf of the OIG to ensure that the office can do the job effectively. He left it for Board members to consider and think about for the next meeting.

The Meeting was adjourned at 7:38 p.m.