

OC-19-38



**OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL**  
*City of Albuquerque*

Kenneth E. Bramlett  
Inspector General

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August 29, 2019

Councilor Klarissa Peña, President  
City Council  
P.O. Box 1293  
Albuquerque, NM 87103

Dear Councilor Peña:

The Office of Inspector General's Annual Report for fiscal year 2019 has been completed. The Accountability in Government Oversight Committee approved the Annual Report on August 28, 2019 and I am pleased to transmit it to the City Council for review.

Sincerely,

Kenneth E. Bramlett



FY2019 Annual Report  
Office of Inspector General  
City of Albuquerque



**Kenneth E. Bramlett**  
Inspector General

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**OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL**  
**Fiscal Year 2019 Annual Report**  
**July 1, 2018 – June 30, 2019**

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Honorable Mayor, Members of the City Council, Accountability in Government Oversight Committee and Citizens of Albuquerque

I am pleased to present the Annual Report on the Office of Inspector General (OIG) for the period of July 1, 2018 to June 30, 2019. The annual report summarizes the activities of the OIG for the past 12 months. FY2019 was a year of change and challenge for the OIG. Under the leadership of Interim Inspector General Jovonne O'Connell, staff were able to provide the appropriate oversight of the City's programs and assets. The OIG was short staffed for much of the year but is currently fully staffed and looking forward to opportunities FY2020 will bring.

The Mayor and Council have shown their support for the OIG by graciously providing additional resources for FY2020. The staff of the OIG are very appreciative of this support.

The OIG is scheduled for their first peer review, conducted by the Association of Inspectors General, the week of September 9<sup>th</sup>.

Staff continued to expand their professional expertise by attending national conferences. This allowed them to participate in training while allowing them to maintain their national certifications.

The Accountability in Government Oversight Committee (AGO) has been an invaluable resource to the OIG. Being new to the City of Albuquerque, the AGO met with me immediately upon my employment and several times since February to assist me in assuming the duties of the office and to ensure I have the necessary tools to work with. They also advocated for additional resources for the OIG and have always made themselves available to assist this office when appropriate. Their assistance in making a seamless transition is greatly appreciated.

I would like to thank the Mayor and City Councilors for supporting the OIG by providing funding for an additional investigator in the FY20 budget. The support of City Councilors and other City staff working with this office to help ensure the integrity of the programs, processes and assets of the City help embody the "One Albuquerque" mindset and is greatly appreciated.

The OIG will continue to expand its outreach in an effort to become more involved with the citizens of Albuquerque. We are available to meet with any citizen's group, neighborhood organization, civic group and others to discuss how we can work together for a more transparent and better Albuquerque.

Sincerely,



Kenneth E. Bramlett  
Inspector General



***City of Albuquerque***  
***Accountability in Government Oversight Committee***  
**P.O. Box 1293 Albuquerque, New Mexico 87103**

August 29, 2019

Honorable Mayor Tim Keller, Members of the City Council, and Citizens of Albuquerque:

The Accountability in Government Oversight (AGO) Committee would like to recognize the Office of Inspector General's (OIG) Inspector General and his staff for their continued service to the Administration, City Council and the Citizens of the City of Albuquerque.

As this annual report demonstrates, FY2019 was one of challenge for the OIG due to personnel changes and other staffing issues that limited the staff available to conduct the day to day business of the office. However, under the direction of Acting Inspector General JoVonne O'Connell, the office was still able to conduct the essential business necessary to protect the integrity of the City's programs and processes. During the latter part of FY2019 the OIG began work on a number of important projects that should come to fruition in the early part of FY2020.

The AGO Committee has found the OIG staff to be a professional and respected resource for the City of Albuquerque. As an independent, objective set of eyes that can help the organization accomplish its objectives, OIG is certainly an integral part of the City of Albuquerque government.

Sincerely,

Edmund E. Perea, Esq., Chairperson for  
Accountability in Government Oversight Committee

John A. Carey  
Elizabeth Metzger  
Daniel O. Trujillo  
Laura Smigielski Garcia

## **Mission Statement**

The mission of the Office of Inspector General is to serve as an independent and objective inspection and investigative body to promote effectiveness, efficiency, transparency and integrity, to prevent and detect fraud, abuse, mismanagement, and waste in the City of Albuquerque's programs and operations.

## **Vision Statement**

Advancing integrity and accountability in the governance of the City of Albuquerque through independent oversight.

## **Authority and Responsibility**

The Albuquerque OIG's authority is established in City Ordinance Chapter 2, Article 17, which specifically creates the Office, the position of Inspector General, associated responsibilities, and duties. The Ordinance establishes the purpose of the Office and goals for the IG. The Ordinance also provides for the selection and retention of the IG, the authority, professional standards and requirements to provide reports. The Ordinance also requires OIG language in City contracts and states that all City officials, employees and contractors must notify the IG of every instance of theft, misfeasance, improper actions and non-compliance with laws at all government levels, as well as the requirement to cooperate with OIG during an investigation. The Ordinance established the OIG as an independent office of the City, which does not report to the Mayor or City Council, but instead to a five member, all volunteer civilian oversight committee - The Accountability in Government Oversight Committee. The Ordinance also empowers the IG to administer oaths and serve subpoenas. The IG has the authority and responsibility to conduct investigations pertaining to violations of the Code of Ethics and Elections Code when requested by the Board of Ethics and Campaign Practices.

Finally, the IG has the authority to investigate violations of the Whistleblower Ordinance.

## **Whistleblower Ordinance**

The Whistleblower Ordinance was established in January 2004 and provides protection to City employees who fear of having retaliation actions taken against them, such as a demotion or employment termination, for reporting activities such as violations of policies, laws, etc. Certain requirements of the Ordinance must be met before the Ordinance is applicable. The person making the complaint can report the situation to the supervisor, director or to the Inspector General. The Inspector General can encourage the employee to report the matter to the Department Director or can decide to investigate the matter if appropriate. It is important to understand that the Whistleblower Ordinance does not apply in situations where no reporting and no suspected retaliation actions have taken place. A mere fear of retaliation action if something is reported, is not a violation of the policy. However, employees are encouraged to report any

suspected violation of policy or law and the OIG can take steps to help protect the employee's identity.

## **Goals**

OIG Goals are established in the Inspector General Ordinance as follows:

- (1) Conduct investigations in an efficient, impartial, equitable and objective manner;
- (2) Prevent and detect fraud, waste and abuse in city activities including all city contracts and partnerships;
- (3) Deter criminal activity through independence in fact and appearance, investigation and interdiction; and
- (4) Propose ways to increase the city's legal, fiscal and ethical accountability to insure tax payers' dollars are spent in a manner consistent with the highest standards of local governments.

The OIG investigates allegations of fraud, waste and abuse in order to prevent recurrence, assist the City in achieving better results from limited resources and promote public trust in City government. Investigations may involve allegations of improper governmental actions as well as matters involving potential violation or non-compliance with federal and state law, city ordinances and city regulations. Many investigations are initiated on referrals from the Mayor's Office, members of the City Council as well as reports from citizens.

The OIG proactively conducts inspections per the OIG ordinance, to ensure compliance, efficiency and good stewardship with public funds. Inspections also may identify instances of fraud, waste and abuse as well as to ensure transparency in City operations and processes.

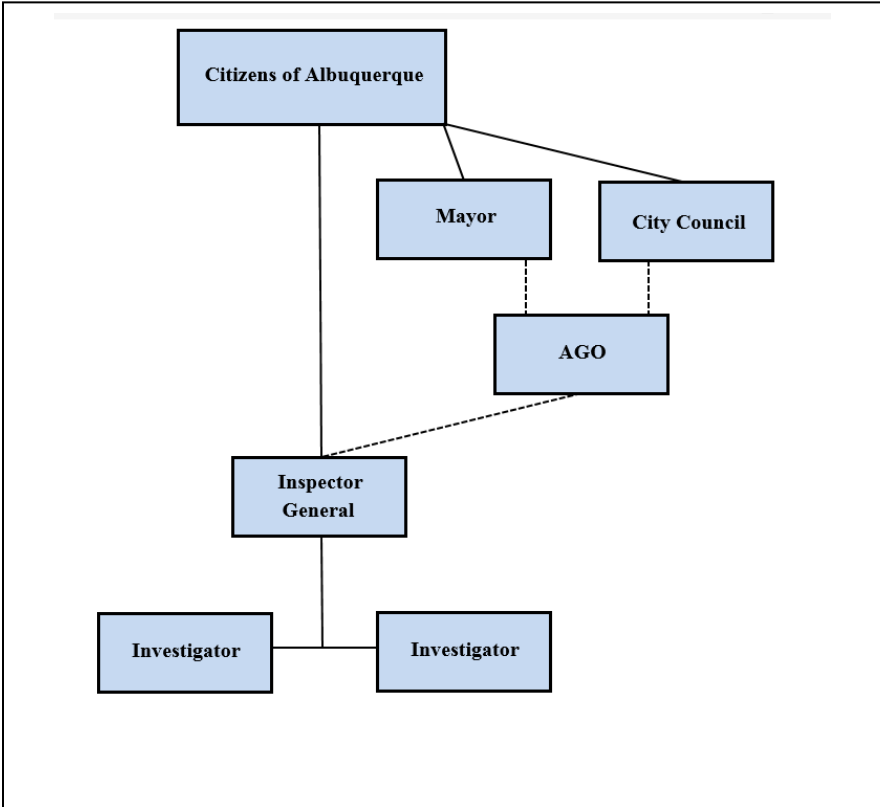
The OIG follows the AIG professional standards for both investigations and inspections. The Ordinance requires the Inspector General to report annually to the Council and the Mayor regarding activities and investigations of the office. The annual report of the OIG is for the fiscal year end on June 30, 2019.

## **Staff Professional Certifications**

Professional Certifications held by OIG staff include but are not limited to:

- Certified Inspector General
- Certified Inspector General Investigator
- Certified Fraud Examiner

# Organizational Chart





## Cases closed in FY 2019

### [06-27-2019 #19-0001-I Aviation Department](#)

The Office of Inspector General for the City of Albuquerque conducted an investigation based on information received from a complaint regarding an employee with the Aviation Department (AD). According to the complaint, an AD Associate Director (AV-1) submitted a contract proposal for the job he was currently overseeing as an AD employee.

### Received Tips:

Source	Quantity
768-4TIP	14
Email to: tipsnow@cabq.gov	16
OIG personal communications	12
311 Complaint	163
Inspector General's web form	8
Other	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>213</b>

### Looking Forward to FY2020

The OIG is looking forward to a very productive FY2020. Staff are concluding several investigations that were initiated in FY2019 and have initiated other investigations in FY2020. We believe these investigations will support the transparency and accountability expected by the City of Albuquerque and its citizens.

Our best source of information are the tips and information received from the employees and citizens of Albuquerque. The OIG is asking if you see or know something, say something and help us to enhance the trust placed in the governance of the City of Albuquerque.