

Begin forwarded message:

From: "Todd A. Gray" <[EO-TGray@atlantaga.gov](mailto:EO-TGray@atlantaga.gov)>  
Date: October 16, 2024 at 9:12:22 AM EDT  
To: "Nichola R. Hines" <[EO-NHines@atlantaga.gov](mailto:EO-NHines@atlantaga.gov)>  
Cc: Rebecca Brubaker <[EO-RBrubaker@atlantaga.gov](mailto:EO-RBrubaker@atlantaga.gov)>, Cecily Welch <[EO-CWelch@atlantaga.gov](mailto:EO-CWelch@atlantaga.gov)>, "Lewis, Natalie" <[EO-NLewis@atlantaga.gov](mailto:EO-NLewis@atlantaga.gov)>, "Cohen, Andrew I" <[EO-AICohen@atlantaga.gov](mailto:EO-AICohen@atlantaga.gov)>, Terri Simmons <[EO-TSimmons@atlantaga.gov](mailto:EO-TSimmons@atlantaga.gov)>, "Taylor, Richard" <[eo-rtaylor@atlantaga.gov](mailto:eo-rtaylor@atlantaga.gov)>, [lisal.attorney@gmail.com](mailto:lisal.attorney@gmail.com)  
Subject: Re: OIG Public Statements in Advance of Task Force Recommendations

Good morning Nichola,

As you quoted

“ It is our duty to make sure that both the Inspector General and the Ethics Officer operate independently, remain accountable, and do not misuse the authority entrusted to them. This oversight is essential to maintaining the integrity of their work and ensuring that these offices themselves are models of ethical leadership.”

Making premature public statements against the intent of the task force, and prior to the task force presenting its recommendations. Is in deed a misuse of authority.

Sincerely,  
Todd

On Oct 16, 2024, at 9:02 AM, Nichola R. Hines <[EO-NHines@atlantaga.gov](mailto:EO-NHines@atlantaga.gov)> wrote:

Good morning, Todd

I hope this message finds you well. I wanted to take the opportunity to address your recent concerns regarding the public campaign being led by the Office of the Inspector General (OIG). I understand that you believe the campaign should be halted and that it is the board’s responsibility to intervene. However, I would like to provide some context and perspective on the purpose and necessity of the campaign, as well as the board’s role in this matter.

After you informed us earlier of text messages going out I reached out to Shannon, (which I encourage all board members to do if they have any concern with the IG or Ethics office) to get a better understanding of the current public campaign.

Yes her team sent the official letter to those who have expressed support of the Office and put the same letter on their website. She explained the letter is written differently than in the past to make it very short and clear of what the office deems an emergency of the Office. And expressing that they show up again today for the last Task Force.

Yes she (Shannon) sent the text to a group of friends that live in Atlanta ie the reference Atlanta 99. This was not a office campaign but a personal plea to her circle.

As you know that the IG and the Ethics office might seek to conduct a public campaign for several key reasons: Public Awareness, Behavioral Change, Transparency and Accountability, and Crisis Management - which is the current IG campaign and the Ethics campaign in 2019

As the Governing Board, our responsibility is to provide oversight of both the Inspector General and the Ethics Officer, ensuring not only that they fulfill their duties but also that they are held to the same high ethical standards as the leaders they oversee. Our role includes safeguarding against any potential corruption or misconduct within these offices, ensuring that they are fiscally responsible, transparent, and acting in the best interest of the public. It is our duty to make sure that both the Inspector General and the Ethics Officer operate independently, remain accountable, and do not misuse the authority entrusted to them. This oversight is essential to maintaining the integrity of their work and ensuring that these offices themselves are models of ethical leadership.

While our role as the Governing Board is to provide essential oversight of the Inspector General and Ethics Officer, this responsibility does not include controlling or halting their day-to-day work or public campaigns, even in light of current challenges. I understand your concerns regarding the recent public statements made by the Inspector General, but these statements have been the same all year. Even the infamous public comments in May was of the same content.

I believe if you would like to address this before our next board meeting, we can call a special call meeting with the OIG that will be open to the public meeting. At that time anyone can ask any questions they have about the public campaign.

Please look for a poll to find the best date and time sometime today.

Sent from my T-Mobile 5G Device  
Get [Outlook for Android](#)

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From: Todd A. Gray <[EO-TGray@Atlantaga.gov](mailto:EO-TGray@Atlantaga.gov)>  
Sent: Tuesday, October 15, 2024 10:27:17 PM  
To: Nichola R. Hines <[EO-NHines@Atlantaga.gov](mailto:EO-NHines@Atlantaga.gov)>; Rebecca Brubaker <[EO-RBrubaker@Atlantaga.gov](mailto:EO-RBrubaker@Atlantaga.gov)>; Cecily Welch <[EO-CWelch@Atlantaga.gov](mailto:EO-CWelch@Atlantaga.gov)>; Lewis, Natalie <

[NLewis@Atlantaga.gov](mailto:NLewis@Atlantaga.gov)>; Cohen, Andrew I <[EO-AICohen@AtlantaGa.Gov](mailto:EO-AICohen@AtlantaGa.Gov)>; Terri Simmons <[EO-TSimmons@Atlantaga.gov](mailto:EO-TSimmons@Atlantaga.gov)>; Taylor, Richard <[eo-rtaylor@AtlantaGa.Gov](mailto:eo-rtaylor@AtlantaGa.Gov)>; Lisa Liang <[lisal.attorney@gmail.com](mailto:lisal.attorney@gmail.com)>

Subject: OIG Public Statements in Advance of Task Force Recommendations

Dear members of the board,

I hope you are doing well.

I find it of great concern that Shannon has made the below noted public statements, in advance of the Task Force official recommendations yet to be deliberated, or announced.

I am also very concerned that her premature statements could result in adverse consequences for the board, if unaddressed appropriately.

Please, let's determine the soonest availability of the board to appropriately convene. I do above all, stand firm and aligned, in the need to support both the OIG and Ethics offices independence. While also, protecting the credibility, structure, and purpose, of the Governing Board.

We must take this seriously.

1 - Text Message

2 - Official Letter

3 - Website Posting

Sincerely,

Todd A Gray

Vice Chair - Governing Board Office of Inspector General and Ethics

1) Text Message

Hey hey, Atlanta 99!

I hate to use this forum for an ask (at least before we have even gotten together!), but here I am. The mayor is trying to shut down the office that I run. He assembled a task force to help him do it and that group meets publicly for the last time this Wednesday at 3pm. I have a ton of information I can share for background, but the upshot is that I hope to have as many people come to City Hall in Wednesday as possible in support of anti-corruption in the city. If you can spread the word in any of your Atlanta networks, I would be grateful.  
--Shannon

<https://www.ajc.com/opinion/opinion-my-office-is-trying-to-root-out-corruption-in-atlanta-government/UJWNQK2TP5E25AOAT25R5AWWZI/>

<https://www.ajc.com/news/atlanta-news/atlanta-inspector-general-report-finds-bribery-in-city-permitting-process/NI22QOXPDNFAJB7KIQDCYDEECQ/>

<https://www.ajc.com/news/atlanta-news/methods-of-atlantas-ig-argued-during-task-force-meeting/PD7KDJUZV5BEFJN7ZW4ITFTYDY/>

2) Official Letter



CITY OF ATLANTA  
OFFICE OF THE INSPECTOR GENERAL

To the People of the City of Atlanta

The City of Atlanta Office of the Inspector General (OIG) is trying to stop corruption.  
The mayor is trying to stop OIG.  
Where do you stand?

In mid-August, OIG released findings of an investigation about powerful people. One week later, the mayor's office began checking off boxes in its gameplan to stop OIG.

- =>Get backing from Council members behind the scenes [✓]
- =>Get that backing by telling lies:
  - \*Accuse the office of violating rights that it has never violated [✓]
  - \*Keep repeating those lies even after OIG privately and publicly corrects you [✓]
  - \*Make unfounded personal attacks against the leader of OIG [✓]
- =>Create a body to give the illusion of legitimacy to pre-planned legislation [✓]
- =>Deny that body sufficient time to do its work [✓]
- =>Stack the deck to limit truth:
  - \*Give the body information in support of mayoral lies [✓]
  - \*Do not post OIG information, even after a body member cites its absence [✓]
  - \*Arrange a parade of witnesses against OIG [✓]
  - \*Give OIG ten minutes to present, the same as each of those witnesses [✓]
  - \*Bar live, public input from national experts by providing last-minute notice and by not allowing remote testimony [✓]
- =>Thwart public engagement early and often:
  - \*"Walk in" legislation with zero public notice [✓]
  - \*Schedule meetings during the day [✓]
  - \*Schedule meetings with time conflicts that prevent live streaming [✓]
  - \*Ignore calls from City NPUs to have citizen and expert representation [✓]

Enough is enough.

Time is running out to stop the mayor from crippling OIG.

Contact your Council member today. Tell your Council member that you support an independent, effective OIG, and that you will not stand for any legislation that will weaken OIG.

This is *your* city, and City Hall is *your* house. Help OIG protect it.



### 3) Current Website Posting

@ATLOIG

## FINAL TEMPORARY TASK FORCE MEETING

Charged with the examination of the processes and procedures of the Office of the Inspector General, the Ethics office, and the Governing Board Office



PHOTO: OCT. 8, 2024 TASK FORCE MEETING (FOX 5)

## STAND WITH OIG

October 16th, 2024

Atlanta City Hall  
Council Chambers  
Second Floor

Todd

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