



OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL

Inspector General Selection and Retention Committee Meeting Minutes November 17, 2021, 4:00 PM

*Note: Below is a summary of the meeting as required by Florida's Sunshine Law; See AGO-82-47.
For more detailed information, please refer to the audio file on the Office of Inspector General's
website, <http://www.coj.net/departments/inspector-general/inspector-general-committee>*

Location: City Hall, St. James Building, 117 West Duval Street, Mezzanine Exam Room 3

Call to Order: Chair L. E. Hutton called the meeting to order at 4:05 PM.

Pledge of Allegiance: Chair L. E. Hutton opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll Call - Committee Members Present:

- Ellen Schmitt, Chair, Ethics Commission
- Owen Schmidt, designee for Honorable Charlie Cofer, Public Defender for the Fourth Judicial Circuit
- Brian Hughes, Chief Administrative Officer (CAO), designee for Honorable Lenny Curry, Mayor
- Honorable Julie Taylor, designee for Honorable Mark Mahon, Chief Judge for the Fourth Judicial Circuit
- Honorable Samuel Newby, City Council President
- L.E. Hutton, Chief Assistant State Attorney, designee for the Honorable Melissa Nelson, State Attorney for the Fourth Judicial Circuit and Chair of the Inspector General Selection and Retention Committee
- Daniel Henry, Chair, TRUE Commission

A quorum was met with all seven members present.

Office of Inspector General (OIG) Staff Present:

- Brandon King, Acting Director of Investigations, OIG
- Christina Gatto, Senior Program Coordinator, OIG

Office of General Counsel (OGC) Staff Present:

- Jason Teal, General Counsel, OGC
- Sean Granat, Deputy General Counsel, OGC

- Mary Staffopoulos, Attorney III, OGC
- Ariel Cook, Attorney II, OGC

I. Old Business

A. Approval of November 10, 2021 Meeting Minutes

Chair L. E. Hutton asked the Inspector General Selection and Retention Committee (Committee) if there were any questions or corrections to the November 10, 2021, meeting minutes. No corrections were noted.

Hughes motioned to approve the November 10, 2021 meeting minutes. Newby seconded the motion. **Motion Carried.**

II. New Business

A. Consideration of Candidates for Interim Inspector General

Chair L. E. Hutton called on the General Counsel to present the potential candidates for the Interim Inspector General position.

Teal stated that the resumes for three potential candidates were provided to the Committee and summarized as follows:

- 1) Sheryl Goodman
 - ✓ Over 30 years of oversight experience
 - ✓ 13 years of experience leading and directing Offices of Inspector General
 - ✓ Served as IG of Palm Beach, Florida
 - ✓ Engaged to assist with the development of our OIG Ordinance
 - ✓ Served as an advisor when our office was developing
 - ✓ Currently employed in her own consulting service
 - ✓ Will not physically be here [OIG] until December 1st
 - ✓ Can be remote to participate until physically arriving
- 2) Mike Weinstein
 - ✓ Has extensive experience in government
 - ✓ Experience dealing with the City of Jacksonville
 - ✓ Took over as CEO as the Kids Hope Alliance (KHA); took over the office when it was in disarray
 - ✓ Can devote time to the Interim IG position, but will still be needed at KHA
- 3) Kirk Sherman
 - ✓ In attendance at this meeting
 - ✓ With the City Council Auditor's Office for 37 years

- ✓ Currently part-time with Finance and Administration
- ✓ Can dedicate 100% of his time to the OIG
- ✓ Familiar with the City of Jacksonville
- ✓ Available immediately to step in as Interim Inspector General

Hutton opened the Committee for questions to Teal.

Hughes asked OGC for guidance for this process [candidate selection], such as scoring. Teal stated that the Committee can discuss pluses and minuses amongst themselves and what they think is important and then someone can make a motion.

There was discussion initiated by Newby as he acknowledged that it is unknown how long this investigation is going to go and only one of the candidates has been an IG; he expressed concern that this could put the accreditation in jeopardy. Teal did not believe that would be an issue and added that if the current IG is voted to be removed by the Committee, then the Interim IG can continue until a permanent IG is selected.

Henry asked Sherman if his intentions are to go back to his part-time position after the Interim IG position. Sherman stated that he would dedicate all his time to the Interim IG position and then would go back to his part-time position. Henry expressed concern that Weinstein and Sherman have a closeness to the City and he also stated that at the last meeting they [Committee] agreed that whoever served in the Interim position should have separation from City government. Taylor agreed and stated that she had that same discussion with Chief Judge Mahon. Schmitt echoed this concern.

Teal stated that there are currently three OIG employees who are on administrative leave, an additional one since the meeting last week, and the Interim IG would make the personnel decisions regarding employment for two of the employees on leave.

There was discussion regarding when Goodman could start if selected for the Interim position. Hutton called Goodman from the meeting [4:43 PM], as her phone number was listed on her resume. Hutton asked Goodman if she was selected as Interim IG when she would be able to physically be in the office in Jacksonville. Goodman stated that she could be at the office on November 30th.

Henry asked Goodman to talk about why she feels that her experience would help her come into the position on an interim basis. Goodman stated she is very familiar with the office, its policies, and accreditation. Goodman also stated she could be available remotely if needed before November 30th.

Henry asked the same question to Sherman regarding what he could bring to the position on an interim basis. Sherman explained that the Council Auditor's Office is very similar to the IG office, and he worked there thirty-seven years.

Hutton asked for further discussion; there was no further discussion. Hutton asked for public comments; there were no comments.

Hughes stated that due to the proximity, immediacy, and local availability, he motioned for the selection of Sherman as Interim Inspector General. **Newby seconded for discussion.**

There was discussion initiated by Schmitt as she noted Sherman's close ties to the City and stated she is leaning towards someone more independent. Henry reiterated that at the last meeting they all agreed to select someone who has the experience but the furthest degree of separation. Taylor acknowledged this and that Weinstein is not going to be considered based on his closeness to the City. Taylor also added that Goodman's delay to begin is not a significant issue and feels that she is appropriate due to her experience and removal from the present situation. Newby agreed.

Henry motioned that they appoint Sheryl Goodman as the Interim Inspector General. **Schmitt seconded the motion.**

Hughes requested the motion be amended to include that the Committee makes the offer at the minimum of the salary range.

Hutton asked for discussion; there was no further discussion. Hutton requested public comment; there were no comments.

Hutton stated that it would be best for an individual vote on the amended motion with Teal to tally. The Committee voted individually for Goodman. **Motion Carried Unanimously.**

Hutton announced that they are willing to offer the position of the Interim Inspector General to Sheryl Goodman at the minimum rate. Diane Moser, Director of Employee Services, confirmed the minimum of the salary range for the Inspector General position is \$147,084.89, and Hughes recommended that OGC and Moser get together for further discussion regarding Goodman.

Granat reiterated that two OIG employees other than Green are on administrative leave and requested clarification that it is the intent of the Committee that the Interim IG will have full authority to deal with this matter. Hutton stated that it is his understanding and that the Interim IG will have that authority.

III. Comments from the Public

Chair L. E. Hutton asked if there were any public comments based on this meeting. There were no public comments.

IV. Adjournment

Chair L. E. Hutton adjourned the meeting at 4:59 PM.