

**GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA**  
**Office of the Inspector General**



October 5, 2017

Archana Vemulapalli  
Chief Technology Officer  
Office of the Chief Technology Officer  
200 I Street, S.E., 5th Floor  
Washington, D.C. 20003

Dear Chief Technology Officer Vemulapalli:

This letter is to inform you that the Office of the Inspector General has completed the Cybersecurity Audit of the District Information Technology Systems (OIG No. 16-1-16TO) and provided you with a comprehensive report on September 29, 2017. Due to the potential vulnerabilities identified in the report, the OIG elected to withhold the comprehensive report from public disclosure in accordance with D.C. Code § 2-534 (a)(10) (LEXIS current through October 3, 2017). This letter is to provide you and District stakeholders with an overview of our audit and the subsequent action taken by the Office of the Chief Technology Officer (OCTO).

Our audit objective was to determine whether current policies and procedures were in place to prevent, detect, and respond to external cybersecurity threats to District information technology systems. D.C. Code § 1-1402 assigns responsibility over the District government's information technology and telecommunications (IT) systems, including the IT systems of independent agencies, to OCTO. OIG audited and reported on the effectiveness of OCTO's: cybersecurity management plan; regulations to manage IT systems; data center maintenance and oversight; standard operating procedures; enforcement of published cybersecurity policy directives; and cybersecurity risk prevention, detection, and response activities.

We conducted our audit work in accordance with generally accepted government auditing standards. Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain sufficient, appropriate evidence to provide a reasonable basis for our findings and conclusions based on our audit objectives. We believe that the evidence obtained provides a reasonable basis for our findings and conclusions based on our audit objective.


Overall, we found that OCTO is making progress to protect District IT systems, but actions are needed to further strengthen cybersecurity preparedness. OCTO has adopted the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) framework to guide how it identifies and manages cybersecurity risks.

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Our confidential report includes nine recommendations to help OCTO improve its cybersecurity preparedness. The recommendations focus on improvements to planning, risk management, and the coordination of cybersecurity activities across the District. OCTO concurred with all nine recommendations, and we will continue to work with OCTO to ensure these recommendations are fully implemented.

We appreciate the cooperation and courtesies extended to our staff during this audit. If you have any questions concerning this report, please contact me or Benjamin Huddle, Acting Assistant Inspector General for Audits, at (202) 727-7721.

Sincerely,

  
Daniel W. Lucas  
Inspector General

DWL/fg

Enclosure

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