

GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
Office of the Inspector General

Inspector General



August 3, 2023

Dr. Lewis D. Ferebee
Chancellor
District of Columbia Public Schools
1200 First Street, N.E.
Washington, D.C. 20002

Ms. Nancy Hapeman
Interim Chief Procurement Officer
Office of Contracting and Procurement
441 4th Street, N.W., Suite 330S
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Dr. Ayanna Bennett
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District of Columbia Department of Health
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Dr. Christina Grant
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Office of the State Superintendent of
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Mr. Delano Hunter
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Ms. Laura Green Zeilinger
Director
Department of Human Services
64 New York Avenue, N.E., 6th Floor
Washington, D.C. 20002

Mr. Glen Lee
Chief Financial Officer
Office of the Chief Financial Officer
1350 Pennsylvania Avenue N.W., Suite 203
Washington, D.C. 20004

Dear Members of the Government of the District of Columbia:

The Office of the Inspector General's (OIG) Inspections and Evaluations (I&E) Unit will soon start a special evaluation of the District's compliance with the Procurement Practices Reform Act (PPRA) of 2010 and District of Columbia Official Code, Title II: Government Administration.

In Management Implication Report (MIR) 23-R-002,¹ I notified the Mayor and Council Chairman of my intent to conduct an evaluation of the District's contracting procedures.

¹ The OIG issues Management Implication Reports (MIRs) to inform multiple District agencies of a matter that surfaced during the OIG's oversight work. MIRs are publicly available on the OIG website.

The objective for this project is to evaluate compliance with the District of Columbia Home Rule Act (D.C. Code § 1-204.51) and District contracting and procurement laws as they pertain to awarding contracts requiring approval by the Council of the District of Columbia. As needed, the OIG will contact your agency to request information and schedule interviews.

I&E projects are conducted under the Quality Standards for Inspection and Evaluation promulgated by the Council of Inspectors General on Integrity and Efficiency; as a matter of standard practice, our inspections and evaluations pay particular attention to the quality of internal control.²

Please provide the name, telephone number, and email address of the person who will serve as your agency's point of contact (POC) for this evaluation to Yulanda Gaither, Assistant Inspector General for Inspections and Evaluations, no later than August 11, 2023.

Also, please provide electronic copies of the following information to Yulanda Gaither at yulanda.gaither@dc.gov so that the I&E team can prepare its fieldwork methodology and plan:

- any policies and procedures about the administration of contracts;
- current DCPS and OCP organizational chart; and
- any other documentation or information you believe will assist the review team.

Ms. Gaither will coordinate with your identified POC to schedule an entrance conference. If you have any questions, please get in touch with me or Ms. Gaither at yulanda.gaither@dc.gov or 202-355-4707.

Thank you in advance for your cooperation, and I look forward to working with your offices in our joint efforts to improve the quality of services provided to the District.

Sincerely,


Daniel Lucas (Aug 2, 2023 16:34 EDT)

Daniel W. Lucas
Inspector General

DWL/yg

cc: Mr. Kevin Donahue, City Administrator, District of Columbia
Mr. Barry Kreiswirth, General Counsel, Office of the City Administrator

² Internal control is defined by the U.S. Government Accountability Office (GAO) as comprising “the plans, methods, policies, and procedures used to fulfill the mission, strategic plan, goals, and objectives of the entity” and is “not one event, but a series of actions that occur throughout an entity’s operations.” Furthermore, internal control is a process that provides “reasonable assurance that the objectives of an entity will be achieved,” “serves as the first line of defense in safeguarding assets,” and is an “integral part of the operational processes management uses to guide its operations.” U.S. GOV’T ACCOUNTABILITY OFFICE, STANDARDS FOR INTERNAL CONTROL IN THE FEDERAL GOV’T 5-6, GAO-14-704G (Sept. 2014), <https://www.gao.gov/products/GAO-14-704G> (last visited July 28, 2023).

The Honorable Phil Mendelson, Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia
The Honorable Kenyan R. McDuffie, At-Large Councilmember, Committee of the Whole,
Council of the District of Columbia
The Honorable Anita Bonds, At-Large Councilmember, Committee of the Whole, Council
of the District of Columbia
The Honorable Christina Henderson, At-Large Councilmember, Council of the District of
Columbia
The Honorable Robert C. White, Jr., At-Large Councilmember, Committee of the Whole,
Council of the District of Columbia
The Honorable Brianne K. Nadeau, Ward 1 Councilmember, Council of the District of
Columbia
The Honorable Brooke Pinto, Ward 2 Councilmember, Council of the District of Columbia
The Honorable Matthew Frumin, Ward 3 Councilmember, Council of the District of
Columbia
The Honorable Janeese Lewis George, Ward 4 Councilmember, Council of the District of
Columbia
The Honorable Zachary Parker, Ward 5 Councilmember, Council of the District of
Columbia
The Honorable Charles Allen, Ward 6 Councilmember, Council of the District of
Columbia
The Honorable Vincent C. Gray, Ward 7 Councilmember, Council of the District of
Columbia
The Honorable Trayon White, Sr., Ward 8 Councilmember, Council of the District of
Columbia
The Honorable Kathy Patterson, D.C. Auditor, Office of the District of Columbia Auditor