



ILLINOIS ETHICS MATTERS

NOVEMBER 19, 2010

Honesty, Integrity, Service

A newsletter from the OFFICE OF EXECUTIVE INSPECTOR GENERAL FOR THE AGENCIES
OF THE ILLINOIS GOVERNOR

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RECENT NEWS

Illinois Senate Confirms Executive Inspector General Ricardo Meza

On November 17, 2010, the Illinois Senate confirmed Ricardo Meza's appointment to head the Office of Executive Inspector General for the Agencies of the Illinois Governor (OEIG). "It's an honor to lead the professional and dedicated staff of the OEIG," stated Meza. "Since my appointment, among other changes, the OEIG has begun accepting online reports of misconduct, placed useful new information on our website, and created a monthly newsletter to improve the Office's effectiveness," remarked Mr. Meza.

Also on November 17, 2010, EIG Meza testified before the Senate Transportation Committee in support of Senator Martin A. Sandoval's and Senator Susan Garrett's proposed amendment to Senate Bill 3965, which would authorize the OEIG to act as inspector general for the Regional Transportation Authority and its related service agencies, including Metra, Pace, and the CTA. The Senate Transportation Committee heard supportive testimony from Mr. Meza and several others before forwarding the bill to the full Senate, where it received approval. The bill now heads to the House for its consideration.

Message from OEIG's Director of Investigations



The Investigations section of the OEIG is responsible for investigating allegations of waste, fraud and abuse. In the last two months, our team of 21 investigators and 15 attorneys have successfully completed and closed nearly 100 investigations.

In addition, our section recently underwent significant changes and put into place new initiatives aimed at increasing the thoroughness of our investigations and reducing the time period between when a complaint is accepted and closed.

Our section is committed to investigating all complaints of waste, fraud, and misconduct and in the months to come, we will continue to enhance our internal process so that allegations of misconduct can be investigated timely and efficiently.

James J. Bonk
Director of Investigations

An Ethics Reminder-The Gift Ban

A holiday reminder -- under the Ethics Act's Gift Ban, State employees may not *intentionally* solicit or accept anything having monetary value from, among others, those who seek official action from State employees or agencies, conduct business or seek to do business with a State agency, or are registered lobbyists. Some limited exceptions to the Gift Ban's restrictions include, but are not limited to, the following items:

- gifts from a relative or from an individual offered on the basis of a personal friendship;
- food or refreshments not exceeding \$75 on a given calendar day;
- any items from one source during a calendar year cumulatively worth less than \$100;
- educational materials or missions; or,
- opportunities, benefits, and services that are available to the general public on the same terms.

Please be aware that State agencies may have policies that are more restrictive than those of the Ethics Act.

Sean Ginty
Chief of Staff & General Counsel

<http://www.inspectorgeneral.illinois.gov/>

Calendar of Events: November Veto Session: Illinois Senate — December 1-2, 2010; Illinois House — November 29-30, 2010.