



CITY OF CHICAGO • OFFICE OF THE MAYOR



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CITY COUNCIL CONFIRMS DEBORAH WITZBURG AS INSPECTOR GENERAL

CHICAGO – Mayor Lori E. Lightfoot’s appointment of Deborah Witzburg as the next Inspector General for the City of Chicago was today confirmed by City Council. With more than ten years of professional experience with local government, Deborah continues her commitment to public service. As the new Chicago Inspector General, Deborah will be engaged with promoting economy, efficiency, effectiveness, and integrity in the administration of City government through investigations and audits resulting in recommendations to the Mayor and the City Council.

"The appointment of Deborah Witzburg as Chicago's new Inspector General is the next step into ensuring City government is always accountable and that our agencies run efficiently for residents," said Mayor Lightfoot. "I'm extremely confident in Deborah's experience and professionalism that will make her a leader in this crucial role. I once again, congratulate Deborah and I look forward to working with her in the Office of the Inspector General to reaffirm our commitment to transparency and accountability across City government."

The Office of Inspector General (OIG) has jurisdiction over City employees; elected officials such as the Mayor, Aldermen, the City Clerk, and the City Treasurer; as well as appointed officials, contractors, and vendors who provide goods and services across our city.

"Chicagoans are entitled to a transparent and accountable government – a government in which policy and practice best serve the public, those who betray the public trust are held to account, and decisions are made in the light of the day," said Deborah Witzburg. "It is our most basic responsibility to make this City more closely resemble the one its residents deserve. I will endeavor to do that, and I am deeply grateful for the opportunity to do so as Inspector General."

Deborah served as Deputy Inspector General for Public Safety at the OIG from June 2020 to November 2021, where she provided a strategic vision and ensured the OIG met its mission by overseeing and directing reviews and audits of the Chicago Police Department and Chicago’s police accountability agencies. Her work in providing



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counsel and oversight on matters of policing and police misconduct and serving as a liaison with elected and appointed officials, police and criminal justice stakeholders, and community members, together with her broader legal and investigative experience, is the reason why Deborah is the selected individual for this role.

“I am pleased that City Council agreed with Mayor Lightfoot’s recommendation of Deborah Witzburg as the next Inspector General,” said Alderman Michele Smith, 43rd Ward and Chair of the Ethics and Government Oversight Committee.” Deborah’s confirmation will continue the commitment to reform and focus on the important work done at the Office of the Inspector General and city government will continue to lead with transparency.”

As Deborah takes on this new role, it is important to acknowledge the hard work and dedication of Interim Inspector General, William Marback, has ensured consistent oversight and accountability. The City is thankful for his services and commitment to transparency in local government.

Before serving as Deputy Inspector General for Public Safety, Deborah was Associate General Counsel for Public Safety at the OIG, where she conducted public safety-related evaluations and reviews and advised on legal and constitutional issues. She has also held the roles of Chief Investigator for Public Safety, leading the development of criteria for the screening and review of closed police disciplinary investigations, and overseeing investigations of police misconduct, and of Assistant Inspector General, managing investigations into misconduct by City of Chicago employees and collaborating with outside agencies on ongoing investigations and prosecutions.

Deborah also spent eight years at the Cook County State’s Attorney’s Office, starting as a law clerk, then as an Assistant State’s Attorney, where she prosecuted a wide range of misdemeanors and handled jury trials and grand jury indictments, serving in the Community Justice Center. At the State's Attorney's Office, Deborah developed crime and gun violence prevention programs, partnering with schools, senior citizens’ groups, and neighborhood organizations.

Deborah received her Bachelor's degree from Brown University in Anthropology, magna cum laude, and received her Juris Doctor, cum laude, from Northwestern University School of Law, where she was on the editorial staff of the Journal of Criminal Law and Criminology. Deborah is admitted to the bar in the State of Illinois.

The Inspector General serves a four-year term.

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