



Illinois Ethics Matters

February 26, 2015 – Special Edition

www.inspectorgeneral.illinois.gov

Honesty, Integrity, Service

A newsletter from the Office of Executive Inspector General for the Agencies
of the Illinois Governor

Special Edition Newsletter

**Office of
Executive Inspector
General**

Ricardo Meza
Executive
Inspector General

Daniel Hurtado
Chief of Staff &
General Counsel

Thomas Klein
Deputy Inspector
General & Chief of
Springfield Division

Fallon Opperman
Deputy Inspector
General & Chief of
Chicago Division

Brandon Myers
Deputy Inspector
General & Chief of
Regional Transit Board
Division

Claudia P. Ortega
Director of Finance and
Administration

Chicago Office:
69 W. Washington St.
Suite 3400
Chicago, IL 60602
(312) 814-5600

Springfield Office:
607 E. Adams St.
14th Floor
Springfield, IL 62701
(217) 558-5600

Hotline:
Phone: (866) 814-1113

TTY:
(888) 261-2734

State Representative Fred Crespo and State Senator Heather Steans file a Series of OEIG-Supported Bills in the 99th General Assembly



The OEIG is very pleased to announce that **Rep. Fred Crespo** in the House ([HB 2585](#), [HB 2586](#), and [HB 2587](#)) and **Sen. Heather Steans** in the Senate ([SB 1542](#), [SB 1543](#), and [SB 1544](#)) filed a series of OEIG-supported bills in the 99th General Assembly.

The proposed legislation is intended to address the lack of transparency and to facilitate more efficient investigations and a better-informed public. If passed, these bills will:

- **Increase transparency by increasing the number of OEIG founded reports publicly released. (HB2585 & SB1544)**
- **Allow OEIG staff to disclose information to agency heads regarding on-going investigations when matters of public safety are implicated. (HB2587 & SB1542)**
- **Ensure that OEIG staff has access to needed information and provide for the enhanced protection of the confidentiality of OEIG investigations. (HB2586 & SB1543)**

Specifically, these bills will amend the 2003 Ethics Act that created the various Offices of Executive Inspectors General and the Executive Ethics Commission. In 2009, amendments to the Ethics Act expanded the jurisdiction and responsibilities of the OEIG. The 2009 amendments also created a limited category of founded reports that must be released, however, even with these changes, some OEIG founded reports still never see the light of day.

The OEIG's proposals follow the agenda outlined in a [December 2014 letter](#) delivered to the leaders of the four legislative caucuses. The OEIG looks forward to discussing these bills and related proposals with legislators, the public, and interested parties in the weeks to come. The OEIG anticipates additional co-sponsors in the near future and will be sending letters of support to members of the General Assembly, the administration, and others.

David Morrison
Director of Ethics Training & Compliance

OEIG Finds Improperly Managed State Grants; Adds Grant Review Members

On February 18, 2015, OEIG investigative report [In re Tower of Refuge and Doris Turner \(11-00290\)](#) was released. The OEIG found that Department of Public Health grantee Tower of Refuge and its founders, **Lorenzo and Bevey Loudon**, improperly obtained state funds.

The OEIG further determined that now-former DPH Center for Minority Health Services Chief **Doris Turner** failed to adequately monitor the three grants.

“It is inappropriate for grantees to use state funds for themselves at such places as Las Vegas, nail salons and to make purchases on iTunes.”

- **EIG Ricardo Meza**

The OEIG found that Tower of Refuge improperly used more than \$16,000 in grant funds.

Relatedly, the OEIG recently expanded its internal Grant Review Initiative Team (GRIT) to include: Supervising Investigator **Stephen Peters**, and investigators **Melissa Brandenburg** and **Margaret Marshall**. These new GRIT members bring more than 30 years of investigatory experience to the team and join current GRIT members—Supervising Investigator **Edward Escamilla**, and investigators **Pat Foley** and **Tiffany Pryor-Wallace**.

Thomas Klein
Deputy Inspector General & Chief
of Springfield Division