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FOR THE AGENCIES OF THE ILLINOIS GOVERNOR

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OEIGG Releases Fiscal Year 2008 Annual Report

CHICAGO – Executive Inspector General James A. Wright Tuesday announced the release of the Fiscal Year 2008 Annual Report of the Office of Executive Inspector General for the Agencies of the Illinois Governor (“OEIGG”). This third agency annual report discloses investigation results and ethics training activities conducted between July 1, 2007, and June 30, 2008.

The report is available to the public only by download. A copy of this report can be obtained from the OEIGG web site: <http://inspectorgeneral.il.gov>.

During FY '08 the OEIGG worked on 399 investigations and completed 245 of them. Of the completed investigations, 106 complaints were found to have merit and 100 were unfounded.

“The success of the OEIGG depends upon honest and courageous complainants who come forward to provide sufficient information and/or evidence regarding misconduct by State employees, vendors, and contractors,” said Wright. “More and more, State workers, vendors and the public are demonstrating their disgust with those individuals and/or entities who engage in misconduct to obtain unearned benefits and are seeking to have these wrongdoers held accountable for their misdeeds,” he said.

In addition, the OEIGG reports that since July 2005, of its own initiative, the Office has referred approximately 220 cases to outside law enforcement agencies for possible criminal investigation and prosecution. Of those cases, 33 were referred to the Illinois district offices of the U.S. Attorney, the FBI, and to other federal law enforcement agencies; 54 were referred to the Office of the Illinois Attorney General; 115 were sent to the Illinois State Police; and 18 to local law enforcement and prosecutorial agencies. Of the 54 cases referred to the Office of Attorney General, nearly half were referred following a full administrative investigation.

Wright said that current statutory restrictions prevent the OEIGG from disclosing information from its investigatory files and reports. However, OEIGG annual reports do allow the public and other stakeholders access to a statistical view of the contemporary ethical environment within State government, he said.

“The OEIGG supports the fullest measure of transparency for founded cases and the legislative changes that will make these reports readily available to the public, while still protecting the identities of complainants,” Wright said. “We also advocate for changes in State law that would allow us to accept anonymous complaints and to self-initiate investigations,” he said.

Established by Administrative Order in January 2003, and promulgated under Article 20 of the State Officials and Employees Ethics Act (5 ILCS 430, *et seq.*) in December 2003, the OEIGG is an independent, non-partisan State agency dedicated to ensuring accountability in the operation of State government. Its mission is to receive and fairly investigate, as appropriate, complaints of fraud, waste, abuse, corruption, and misconduct by employees of State agencies under its jurisdiction and those doing business with those agencies.

Misconduct complaints can be made to the Office of Executive Inspector General for the Agencies of the Illinois Governor, by calling the OEIGG Complaint Hotline, 1-866-814-1113 (TTY 1-888-261-2734), or by fax, 1-312-814-5479. Complaint forms can be obtained at the OEIGG web site: <http://inspectorgeneral.il.gov/complaint.htm>. By law, the OEIGG cannot accept anonymous complaints, but will uphold the confidentiality of complainants’ identities to the fullest extent permitted by law.