


F R O M	Name & Title	Isabel Mercedes Cumming Inspector General <i>isabel mercedes cumming</i>	OFFICE OF THE INSPECTOR GENERAL MEMO	
	Agency Name & Address	Office of the Inspector General 100 N. Holliday Street, Suite 635 Baltimore, MD 21202		
	Subject:	Request to Open Performance Review		

TO: OIG Advisory Board

DATE: October 19, 2021

The Baltimore City Charter mandates that the Office of the Inspector General (OIG) Advisory Board shall meet at least once annually to review the performance of the Inspector General (IG). Baltimore City Charter, Article X, § 2(f). A relevant concern is whether the public should be permitted to observe the process and criteria by which the IG's performance is reviewed. In keeping with the OIG's commitment to transparency and accountability, I hereby waive all confidentiality and/or privacy to which a review of my performance may otherwise be entitled.

The position of IG is a unique one in City government. As IG, I endeavor to increase public trust in government by promoting transparency and accountability. I take these responsibilities seriously. To further that mission, the OIG provides a public synopsis of each of the cases it investigates. The OIG also publishes a timely annual report that details a variety of performance metrics, including, among others, the number of hotline complaints received, the number of reports issued, the number and type of outreach activities conducted, and the dollar amount of waste or savings identified. Any review of my performance as IG should be no less transparent.

The State Open Meetings Act permits a meeting to be closed to the public under limited exceptions, including to discuss an official's job performance. Md. Code Ann., General Provisions Article ("GP"), § 3-305(b)(1). However, the decision to invoke this exception is discretionary, and all exceptions to a public open meeting "shall be strictly construed in favor of open meetings." GP § 3-305(a).

As the subject of the performance review at issue, I waive all potential claims to privacy and confidentiality that might justify a closed meeting and instead request that any meeting to review my performance be open to the public. The citizens of Baltimore City deserve this level of transparency.

Thank you for your consideration.

CC: Department of Legislative Reference