

GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA  
Office of the Inspector General

Charles C. Maddox, Esq.  
Inspector General



March 23, 2000

The Honorable Anthony A. Williams  
Mayor of the District of Columbia  
One Judiciary Square  
441 4<sup>th</sup> Street, N.W., Suite 1100  
Washington, D.C. 20001

Dear Mayor Williams:

In our continuing effort to alert agency heads of issues requiring their attention, I am providing this Management Implication Report (MIR) No. 00-A-02, concerning the prevention of computer viruses in the District's computer systems.

Agency Heads may want to review existing controls to see that they are, in fact, in place or implement new controls that would limit the spread of computer viruses. I can't emphasize enough the importance of preventing the spread of computer viruses within the District. Viruses disrupt information processing and could destroy valuable information needed to manage District operations. Maintaining appropriate virus prevention software will prevent or limit the spread of viruses.

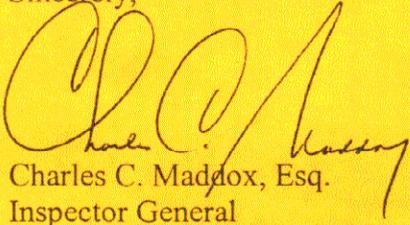
During an ongoing audit, we notified a District agency that our virus detection software discovered a virus on a computer file the agency had provided to us. The infected file was taken from a system "protected" with detection software that had not been updated for about 4 years. Typically, virus protection updates are available monthly.

Upon notification, the agency took positive steps that other agencies may wish to consider for the protection of their own agency and District-wide computer assets. The agency advised that it would review its "strict protocol" for updating its virus protection software and would review

and implement procedures to ensure that regular updates to virus prevention systems are installed timely as new releases become available. The agency also advised that it had begun a process of scanning all systems using a state of the art antivirus program. Notably, the agency also acquired a software package that will allow the downloading and monitoring of software on file servers from a remote location.

Should you have questions concerning this report, please call me at 727-2540.

Sincerely,



Charles C. Maddox, Esq.  
Inspector General

cc: District of Columbia Financial Responsibility  
and Management Assistance Authority  
District of Columbia Councilmembers  
Agency Heads