

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE REPORT

Investigations – The OIG had 38 open investigations at the start of FY 98 and opened an additional 168 investigations. The OIG closed 76 investigation during FY 98, leaving 130 open investigations at the end of the fiscal year. The OIG also made 42 administrative referrals to other D.C. government agencies during FY 98. The U.S. Attorney’s Office accepted for prosecution 19 of the 23 cases referred to it by the OIG in FY 98.

Convictions and Sentences – OIG investigations resulted in the conviction during FY 98 of 24 persons; the nine who were sentenced in FY 98 received a total of 322 months of imprisonment, supervised release, probation, and home detention, and were also ordered to pay approximately \$475,000 in restitution, fines, assessments, taxes, and penalties; the other 15 are to be sentenced in FY 99. In addition, the employment of two District employees was terminated due to misconduct uncovered by OIG investigations.

Savings from OIG Audits – The OIG issued 23 audit reports in FY 98. The potential savings from these audits amount to nearly \$2.8 million, and an additional \$9.65 million in savings will likely be realized as a result of audits of Medicaid overpayments performed by an OIG external contract auditor.

Special Investigations Division – The OIG established a new unit dedicated to conducting investigations of alleged corruption and mismanagement in the Metropolitan Police Department.

Law Enforcement Powers – New legislation enacted by the D.C. Council at the request of the OIG authorizes the Office’s investigators to carry firearms, execute search warrants, and make arrests.

Report on 911 System – An investigation of the 911 emergency telephone system operated by the MPD found that 20% of 911 calls were not answered within 16 seconds and another 13% were not answered at all. A number of the OIG's recommendations are being implemented by the Police Department.

Audit of Telecommunications System – An OIG audit revealed that the District exceeded its budget for telecommunications services by \$10 million. The OIG found that internal controls over payments were almost non-existent, and payments for telecommunications charges of \$6.5 million were delinquent, causing a potential interest liability of \$60,000.

Audit of 900 Calls – An audit of the District's child welfare office uncovered over \$11,000 in inappropriate calls to 900 numbers that were charged to the District government within a six week period. Following the OIG's issuance of a management alert, all such calls were blocked within the D.C. government.

Audit of Efforts to Solve Year 2000 Problem – The OIG's audit report on the Year 2000 (Y2K) conversion problem apprised the District of the seriousness of this problem. As a result of the OIG's recommendations, the District appointed an executive sponsor to oversee the District's Y2K efforts and has made progress toward solving the problem.

Conviction of the Chief of the Office of Taxicabs – An investigation conducted jointly with the FBI, MPD and U.S. Attorney's Office resulted in the conviction of Ronald L. Stokes for accepting over \$10,000 in bribes and illegal gratuities and his being sentenced to 46 months of imprisonment and fined \$75,000.

Conviction of Motor Vehicle Inspectors – The joint probe that led to the conviction of Ronald Stokes also investigated a conspiracy by Department of Public Works employees and others to sell taxicab inspection permits without the required safety inspections. The investigation led to the conviction in FY 98 of 16 persons on bribery, forgery and other charges; still others await trial in FY 99.

Conviction of Head of D.C. Public Library – The OIG’s investigation of Hardy R. Franklin, Jr., for allegedly stealing over \$20,000 resulted in his pleading guilty to a felony conflict of interest charge and his being ordered to pay over \$24,000 in restitution.

Conviction of President of Kedar Day School – The investigation of Jeffrey M. Robinson for defrauding the D.C. Public Schools resulted in his being convicted of 10 counts of wire fraud and one count of bank fraud and sentenced to 37 months of imprisonment and ordered to pay \$302,000 in restitution.

Conviction of Former D.C. Councilmember – The OIG investigation of former Ward 8 Councilmember Eydie D. Whittington for making false certifications with respect to election petitions she submitted to the D.C. Board of Elections and Ethics led to her being found guilty of the charge of Making a False Statement and sentenced to six months supervised probation and ordered to complete 120 hours of community service.

Pruckmayr Settlement – The OIG facilitated the settlement of a lawsuit against the District by agreeing to investigate the policies and practices of the Department of Corrections and the Parole Board that led to the release of Leo Gonzalez Wright who, while on parole in 1995, murdered Bettina Erika Pruckmayr.
