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OSIG NEWS

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OSIG PERFORMING ITS DUTIES AS MANDATED IN THE CODE OF VIRGINIA

The Virginia Office of the State Inspector General (OSIG) has been performing and continues to perform its duties to the letter of the law. That from State Inspector General Michael C. Westfall, who is deeply concerned about the external distribution of information taken from OSIG draft reports that have not been finalized.

“OSIG is doing its job and doing it as mandated in the Code of Virginia,” said Westfall. “Our office is following its rigorous, internal administrative review process for Hotline investigations, a process that has worked well for the Commonwealth for nearly 30 years. And, as with any other agency, OSIG seeks legal advice as necessary, particularly when allegations deal with potential Code of Virginia violations, to ensure that OSIG is following the rule of law.”

OSIG releases final reports that have official conclusions and findings verified by indisputable evidence. Draft reports may contain allegations that are not completely vetted or unsupported by facts and may require corrections before they become final reports.

“An allegation is a claim or assertion that someone has done something wrong, often made without proof,” said Westfall. “OSIG will not release a final report that contains unfounded allegations that could damage its integrity and reputation as an independent agency. I caution anyone purporting to have a draft document to not interpret it as being anywhere close to a final report.”

Westfall stressed that any OSIG draft report is confidential and remains a working investigation. He added that OSIG is statutorily required to report to a prosecutor any allegations deemed reasonable and validated with appropriate evidence.

“If further proof is brought to OSIG about any preliminary allegations, it will rigorously investigate further,” said Westfall. “It is OSIG’s job to investigate independently and methodically any allegation and report with proof. Any preliminary allegations not included in a final report are not supported by a further review of law and facts necessary to be included in a final report.”

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Established in 2012, the Virginia Office of the State Inspector General manages the State Fraud, Waste and Abuse Hotline; conducts investigations and performance audits of state agencies; provides training and standards for the commonwealth’s internal audit programs; and conducts inspections and reviews of Virginia Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services-run facilities and programs.