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OSIG MARKS 10-YEAR ANNIVERSARY WITH ROBUST ANNUAL REPORT FOR FY 2022

The Office of the State Inspector General's investigations, audits and reviews of executive branch agencies resulted in numerous recommendations for improved internal controls, efficiency and effectiveness. In its <u>Fiscal Year 2022 Annual Report</u>, OSIG reports that the Investigations Unit opened 30 executive branch agency investigations, referred 13 cases for prosecutorial consideration and closed 35 cases. OSIG also began the process of obtaining initial accreditation through the Virginia Law Enforcement Professional Standards Commission and the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies, accrediting entities that will greatly enhance the effectiveness and abilities of OSIG. Additionally, the Fraud, Waste and Abuse Hotline assigned 156 cases for investigation, which totaled 301 separate allegations.

"These are just some of the agency's accomplishments in a very busy year," said State Inspector General Michael C. Westfall. "We continued collaboration with the Attorney General's office and have received requests from the Governor's office and various cabinet members as they become more engaged in the work that we do. That's because we have proven ourselves during these past 10 years and have grown our reputation as a watchdog agency."

OSIG's Audit Unit published five performance audits, including an extensive review of charitable gaming in Virginia following a request from the General Assembly, as well as a far-reaching look at snow removal in the Commonwealth. Published reports are on the OSIG <u>website</u>. Behavioral Health and Developmental Services staff processed more than 400 Complaint Line contacts in a timely, proficient manner, while the Communications Unit managed more than 600 general inquiries and/or complaints. "Through the relationships we have built, and the work we have done for our stakeholders, we can continue to build upon this progress, broaden our scope and remain an independent and objective organization within the executive branch," said Westfall.

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.