

ARTICLE XV—AGENCY OF INSPECTOR GENERAL

SECTION 15.01 AGENCY OF INSPECTOR GENERAL.

(1) **Powers and Duties.** The Inspector General shall serve as the County's chief ethics officer and shall direct the Agency of Inspector General. The County Executive and the County Council shall appropriate funding for the Agency's operations, fairly allocated through the regular budget process based on available resources. The Council may, by ordinance, further delineate the powers, duties, and responsibilities of the Agency of Inspector General, consistent with this Article XV.

(2) **Jurisdiction.** To the maximum extent permitted under the Constitution of the State of Ohio and this Charter, the authority of the Agency of Inspector General to investigate possible ethical violations in the conduct of County business shall extend to any employee, official, or appointee of the County and any person or entity doing business with the County.

(3) **Qualifications.** The Inspector General shall hold a juris doctor degree from an accredited institution of higher learning and shall have at least five years' experience as an inspector general, certified public accountant, auditor, licensed attorney, law enforcement officer, or other investigative officer involving supervisory or managerial experience.

(4) **Appointment and Term.** The Inspector General shall be appointed by the County Executive, subject to confirmation by Council, for a term of four years. The term of the incumbent Inspector General shall expire on December 31, 2020. Each subsequent Inspector General shall be appointed or reappointed for a term commencing on January 1, 2021, and every four years thereafter. Reappointments shall be subject to Council confirmation.

(5) **Removal.** During the term of appointment, the Inspector General may be removed from office only for cause by resolution receiving the affirmative vote of at least eight members of the Council. The Council shall not vote on the question of the removal of the Inspector General until the Council has provided the Inspector General the opportunity to be heard and to present his or her case for retention in office. The Council

may enter executive session to discuss the question of removal as provided by general law; provided the Council holds at least one public hearing where the Inspector General and the public have an opportunity to be heard.

(6) **Vacancy.** In the event of a vacancy prior to the expiration of the Inspector General's term, the County Executive shall appoint a successor to complete the unexpired term, subject to confirmation by Council. In the event a vacancy occurs less than two years prior to the expiration of the Inspector General's four-year term, the County Executive may appoint an Inspector General to complete the unexpired term and serve a subsequent four-year term, subject to confirmation by Council.

(7) **Access to County Information.** The Inspector General shall have the right to obtain full and unrestricted access to all records, reports, plans, projections, matters, contracts, memoranda, correspondence, and any other materials, including electronic data, of Cuyahoga County, relevant to any inquiry or investigation undertaken pursuant to this Article XV, except as may be legally limited, such as through attorney-client privilege or provisions of the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA).

(8) **Subpoena Power.** The Inspector General shall have authority to subpoena witnesses, administer oaths or affirmations, take testimony and compel the production of such books, papers, records and documents, including electronic data as is deemed to be relevant to any inquiry or investigation undertaken pursuant to this Article XV.

[Effective December 27, 2018; Article XV, Section 15.01 added by the electors on November 6, 2018]