

U.S. COMMISSION ON CIVIL RIGHTS
INSPECTOR GENERAL REPORT

SEMIANNUAL REPORT TO CONGRESS

April 1, 2013, through September 30, 2013

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October 30, 2013

The Honorable Martin R. Castro
Chairman
U.S. Commission on Civil Rights
1331 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20425

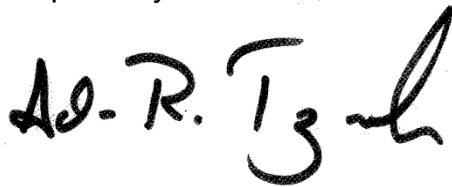
Dear Chairman Castro:

I am submitting this semiannual report in accordance with Section 5 of the Inspector General Act of 1978, as amended. The report summarizes the activities of the Inspector General for the period April 1, 2013, through September 30, 2013. The act requires that you transmit the report to the appropriate congressional committees within 30 days of receipt. Your transmittal should also include any comments you consider appropriate and other statistical tables and reports required by law.

During this semiannual period, the OIG initiated an inspection of state advisory committee (SAC) chairpersons to obtain their views on the SAC's ability to inform the Commission on civil rights issues. In addition, we processed four hotline complaints and closed one investigation.

I appreciate the Civil Rights Commission's support and look forward to working with you to help promote economy and efficiency in the operations of the Commission.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "A.R. Trzeciak" with a stylized flourish at the end.

Adam R. Trzeciak
Inspector General

cc: The Honorable Abigail Thernstrom, Vice Chair
The Honorable Roberta Achtenberg
The Honorable Todd Gaziano
The Honorable Gail Heriot
The Honorable Peter Kirsanow
The Honorable David Kladney
The Honorable Michael Yaki

INTRODUCTION

THE U.S. COMMISSION ON CIVIL RIGHTS

The U.S. Commission on Civil Rights (Commission), created pursuant to the Civil Rights Act of 1957,¹ is responsible for investigating allegations of voting rights deprivations because of color, race, religion, sex, age, disability, or national origin or as a result of any pattern or practice of fraud. In addition, the Commission is also responsible for performing the following functions regarding discrimination, denials of equal protection of the laws, or the administration of justice because of color, race, religion, sex, age, disability or national origin: (a) collecting and studying information; (b) making appraisals of federal laws and policies; (c) serving as a national clearinghouse for information; and (d) preparing public service announcements and advertising campaigns. The Commission may hold hearings and, within specific guidelines, issue subpoenas to obtain certain records and require witnesses to appear at hearings. It is also required to maintain state advisory committees and consult with representatives of federal, state, and local governments and private organizations to advance its fact-finding work.

The Commission is required to issue reports on its investigative findings to Congress and the President, and to recommend legislative remedies. The Commission also must submit annually to Congress and the President at least one report that monitors federal civil rights enforcement in the United States. In addition, because it lacks enforcement powers that would enable it to apply remedies in individual cases, the Commission refers specific complaints it receives to the appropriate federal, state, or local government agencies for action.

THE INSPECTOR GENERAL

The Consolidated and Further Continuing Appropriations Act of 2012 designated the Inspector General of the Government Accountability Office (GAO) to serve as the Inspector General of the Commission.² As such, GAO's Office of Inspector General (OIG) independently performs the duties and has the responsibilities and authorities of the Commission's Inspector General as specified in the Inspector General Act of 1978, as amended.³ The Inspector General of the Commission is authorized to audit and investigate programs and operations administered or financed by the Commission, and to keep the Commissioners and Congress fully and currently informed about fraud or other serious problems, abuses, and deficiencies we identify.

¹41 U.S.C. 1975 et seq.

²Pub. L. No. 112-55, 125 Stat. 552, 628 (Nov. 18, 2011).

³5 U.S.C. app.

ACTIVITIES OF THE INSPECTOR GENERAL

AUDITS, INSPECTIONS, AND EVALUATIONS

During this reporting period, we initiated an inspection to survey state advisory committee (SAC) chairpersons on the SACs ability to inform the Commission on civil rights issues. In a prior report, we identified the need for the Commission to better use its SACs to help achieve its mission.⁴

INVESTIGATIVE ACTIVITIES

The Inspector General received four new hotline complaints. As shown in table 1, we closed one investigation and did not open any new investigations. At the end of the reporting period, three investigations remained open.

Table 1: Summary of Investigations, April 1, 2013, through September 30, 2013

| | |
|--|---|
| Investigations open at the start of the reporting period | 4 |
| New investigations initiated this reporting period | 0 |
| Total investigations | 4 |
| Disposition of investigations | |
| Investigations closed | 1 |
| Total investigations open at the end of the reporting period | 3 |

Source: OIG.

OTHER ACTIVITIES

LEGISLATIVE AND REGULATORY REVIEW

As required by the Inspector General Act of 1978, as amended, the OIG reviews proposed legislation and regulations to assess whether the proposed legislation or regulations impacts the economy and efficiency of the Commission's programs and operations. During this period, we identified no legislation or regulation affecting the programs or operations of the Commission requiring Inspector General review.

PEER REVIEW

Government Auditing Standards require that each organization performing audits in accordance with these standards must have an external peer review. The objectives of a peer review are to determine whether an effective quality control system has been established in the office and if policies, procedures, and applicable government auditing standards are followed. Peer reviews must be performed at least once every 3 years by reviewers independent of the audit organization being reviewed.

⁴*Fiscal Year 2012 Management and Performance Challenges*, [OIG/USCCR-13-1](#) (Nov. 7, 2012).

The Inspector General Act requires federal offices of inspectors general to include in their semiannual reports to Congress the results of any peer review conducted by another OIG during the reporting period, or, if no peer review was conducted within the reporting period, a statement identifying the date of the last peer review conducted by another OIG. The OIG has not undergone a peer review but in April 2013 formally requested a peer review of our audit operations. Further, we did not conduct a peer review of another OIG.

STATUS OF AUDIT RECOMMENDATIONS

The Commission reported that it took action to close three of five OIG recommendations related to federal information security requirements.⁵ Two recommendations related to configuration management and risk management remained open.

⁵*Fiscal Year 2012 Federal Information Security Management Act Evaluation*, [OIG/USCCR-13-2](#) (Nov. 15, 2012).

APPENDIX: REPORTING REQUIREMENTS OF THE INSPECTOR GENERAL ACT OF 1978, AS AMENDED

Table 2 identifies the reporting requirements prescribed by the Inspector General Act of 1978, as amended. References noted as “none” indicate that there was no information to report during this reporting period. Tables 3 and 4 identify the number of reports issued with questioned costs and recommendations that funds be put to better use, respectively.

Table 2: Index of Inspector General Act Reporting Requirements

| Reference | Reporting requirements | Page |
|-------------------------------|---|---------|
| Section 4(a)(2) | Review of legislation and regulations | 4 |
| Section 5(a)(1) | Significant problems, abuses, and deficiencies | None |
| Section 5(a)(2) | Recommendations for corrective action with respect to significant problems, abuses, and deficiencies | None |
| Section 5(a)(3) | Significant recommendations described in previous semiannual reports for which corrective action has not been completed | None |
| Section 5(a)(4) | Matters referred to prosecuting authorities and resulting prosecutions and convictions | None |
| Sections 5(a)(5) and 6(b)(2) | Summary of instances reported to the Commissioners where records were not provided or other information or assistance was refused | None |
| Section 5(a)(6) | List of reports issued during the reporting period | None |
| Section 5(a)(7) | Summary of significant reports | None |
| Section 5(a)(8) | Statistical table—audit, inspection, and evaluation reports with questioned costs | Table 3 |
| Section 5(a)(9) | Statistical table—audit, inspection, and evaluation reports with recommendations that funds be put to better use | Table 4 |
| Section 5(a)(10) | Summary of audit reports issued before the commencement of the reporting period for which no management decision has been made | None |
| Section 5(a)(11) | Significant revised management decisions made during the reporting period | None |
| Section 5(a)(12) | Significant revised management decisions with which the Inspector General is in disagreement | None |
| Section 5(a)(14) through (16) | Peer review requirements | 4 |
| Section 5(d) | Serious or flagrant problems, abuses, or deficiencies reported to the Commissioners | None |

Source: OIG.

Table 3: Audit, Inspection, and Evaluation Reports with Questioned Costs

| Reporting requirement | Number of reports | Number of recommendations | Questioned costs | Unsupported costs |
|--|--------------------------|----------------------------------|-------------------------|--------------------------|
| For which no management decision has been made by the commencement of the reporting period | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Which were issued during the reporting period | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| For which a management decision was made during the reporting period | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| For which no management decision has been made by the end of the reporting period | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |

Source: OIG.

Table 4: Audit, Inspection, and Evaluation Reports with Recommendations That Funds Be Put to Better Use

| Reporting requirement | Number of reports | Number of recommendations | Dollar value |
|--|--------------------------|----------------------------------|---------------------|
| For which no management decision has been made by the commencement of the reporting period | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Which were issued during the reporting period | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| For which a management decision was made during the reporting period | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| For which no management decision has been made by the end of the reporting period | 0 | 0 | 0 |

Source: OIG.

REPORTING FRAUD, WASTE, AND ABUSE IN THE U.S. COMMISSION ON CIVIL RIGHTS

To report fraud, waste, or abuse in Commission programs and operations (which you can do anonymously), do one of the following.

- Call toll-free (866) 680-7963 to speak with a hotline specialist, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.
- Report online at: <https://oig.alertline.com>.

OBTAINING COPIES OF INSPECTOR GENERAL REPORTS, PUBLICATIONS, AND TESTIMONIES

- Copies of Inspector General reports, publications, and testimonies are available on the Commission's website: <http://www.usccr.gov/OIG/index.php>.