



# CITY OF HOUSTON

Legal Department

## Interoffice

Correspondence

**To:** Annise Parker  
Mayor

**From:** Robert A. Doguim  
Inspector General

*[Signature]*  
2 June 11

**Via:** David M. Feldman  
City Attorney

**Date:** June 2, 2011

**CONFIDENTIAL**

**Subject:** **OIG COMPLAINT # 111-1100044-001 re  
Council Member Jolanda Jones**

The purpose of this memorandum is to report the results of the investigation concerning allegations of misconduct against Council Member (CM) Jolanda Jones.

The Officer of Inspector General (OIG) had been advised by City Attorney David Feldman that he had been contacted by a representative of the Houston Police Officer's Union (HPOU) who voiced concerns over literature that Council Member Jones had provided to the public entitled, "Know Your Rights With The Police". Questions were raised regarding whether these actions violated the Council Member's oath of office, Chapter 18 of the City of Houston's Code of Ordinances entitled Ethics and Financial Disclosure and/or unauthorized use of City resources.

Pursuant to this information, I authorized a Preliminary Inquiry and on March 18, 2011, directed that a full investigation be opened under the authority granted to the Inspector General in Executive Order 1-39.

The investigation revealed that CM Jones did in fact provide the public with a card entitled, "Know Your Rights With The Police" and that this card contained two contact phone numbers, one of them being her City issued telephone number. The investigation further revealed that the insertion of the City telephone number was unlawful in that the dominate nature of the card was that of a private advertisement for her personal law practice.

The investigation also revealed that CM Jones used her City Council staff to assist her in the running of her personal law practice as she directed her staff to take her to and from court while they were on duty being paid by the City, directed staff members to fax documents related to her private practice using the City's fax machine, asked her staff to notarize documents related to her practice and she advised her staff that if calls were received from the "Know Your Rights With The Police" card, they were to direct the callers to her private law office.

The investigation revealed sufficient evidence that CM Jones interfered with an ongoing Office of Inspector General investigation by instructing her staff not to meet with the OIG investigator thus hindering their ability to fully cooperate. The investigation further revealed that at her direction staff personnel failed to respond to e-mails and telephone calls and that they failed to attend scheduled appointments with the OIG investigator.

The investigation revealed that CM Jones was untruthful in her sworn statement when she denied using City resources and employees to aid in the furtherance of her personal law practice and when she denied instructing, directing and/or encouraging her staff to postpone, cancel or delay meeting with the OIG investigator.

Finally, the investigation revealed that CM Jones did not violate her oath of office.

The OIG has determined that CM Jones violated the following:

Violation of City of Houston Code of Ordinances  
Section 18.3(a)(4) - City issued telephone number

Violation of City of Houston Code of Ordinances  
Section 18.3(a)(4) – improper use of City resources

Violation of City of Houston Code of Ordinances  
Section 18.3(a)(4) – improper use of City employees

Violation of Executive Order 1-39  
Section 5.7.6 – interfered with an investigation

Violation of Executive Order 1-39  
Section 5.7.3 – untruthful during the investigation

Violation of Executive Order 1-39  
Section 5.7.4 – failed to cooperate




# CITY OF HOUSTON

Legal Department

## Interoffice

Correspondence

**To:** Mayor Annise D. Parker

**From:** Robert A. Doguim  
Inspector General

**Date:** June 8, 2011

**Subject:** OIG Complaint # 111-1100044-001  
re Council Member Jolanda Jones

CONFIDENTIAL

The purpose of this memorandum is to report the results of a follow up interview with Council Member (CM) Jones regarding the above captioned investigation.

On 6/8/11, CM Jones was contacted by an investigator from the Office of Inspector General (OIG) and asked to come into the office for a follow up interview regarding her ongoing case at which time she advised the investigator that she was at a meeting and then later traveling out of town and she would not be able to come in. CM Jones agreed to contact the investigator upon her return. A short time later that afternoon, CM Jones contacted the Inspector General and advised that she would make arrangements to come in for a follow up interview.

The questions that had been prepared for CM Jones were short and specific as to whether or not she had used her staff and City of Houston equipment and resources in furtherance of her private law practice specifically if she had: 1) A staff member drive her to and from her city office to her court appointments. 2) If she used the city fax machine. 3) If she used the city copying machine. 4) And if she asked a staff member to notarize, or have notarized any document relating to her private law practice. Once CM Jones was presented with these questions, she asked the investigator to step out of his office so that she could contact and confer with her "advisor" before responding to the questions. CM Jones further insisted that she would have to leave the interview and return with her sworn answers after meeting with her "advisor".

CM Jones' most recent responses appear to be more of an attempt to mount a defense (something she has every right to do) of her initial answers specifically now that she knows what others have stated. Again, while she has every right to defend herself it does not change the initial findings and results of our investigation.