



City of Chicago

Committee on Finance
City Hall • Room 302 • 60602
www.committeefonfinance.org

Alderman Edward M. Burke
Chairman

Telephone
312-744-3380

Via Electronic Transmission and U.S. Mail

Joseph M. Ferguson, Esq.
Inspector General
740 N. Sedgwick Street
Suite 200
Chicago, Illinois 60654

June 6, 2012

Dear Mr. Ferguson:

Chairman Edward M. Burke has referred your letter to him dated May 18, 2012, to me. In the letter you request “immediate, unfiltered read-only access to the database(s)” related to the management of the City’s duty disability system applicable to City employees.

You and I have discussed your request by phone and I expressed my sensitivity to, and concern for, complying with the relevant jurisdictional considerations required by the Municipal Code inasmuch as the Committee on Finance is not an executive department of the City, and is clearly a creation of the City Council and, accordingly, within the jurisdiction of the Legislative Inspector General.

Moreover, the duty disability system is in fact established by the Workers’ Compensation Act of the State of Illinois, and not the City of Chicago or the Committee on Finance, which provides ministerial support under the Act as enforced by the Workers’ Compensation Commission and its arbitrators. The ministerial support, i.e., the administration, operation and management of the duty disability system, is conducted solely by Committee employees over whom the Legislative Inspector General has exclusive jurisdiction.

The proceedings of the Commission are a matter of public record, as are the records of the City’s Department of Finance relating to any payments required by the Act and/or the Commission’s administrative process.

Furthermore, as we discussed, the Committee provides certain information to each executive department relating specifically to those individuals who are claiming work related injuries. That information is available to you through each executive department and does not require the Committee's involvement.

As a result, it would be helpful to the Committee if you could be more focused in what information you are seeking above and beyond what is currently available through the Workers' Compensation Commission and the City's executive departments so that we can be more comfortable that we are properly respecting the differing jurisdictional boundaries established by the Municipal Code.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Marla M. Kaiden", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Marla M. Kaiden
Chief Administrative Officer

MMK/dms