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Randy Erford

LEGISLATIVE ETHICS COMMISSION

420 Stratton Building, Springfield, IL 62706

Phone: (217) 558-1561

Fax: (217) 557-0505

TO: Members of the Illinois General Assembly
FROM: Members of the Legislative Ethics Commission
RE: Evaluation of Complaints by Special Legislative Inspector General
DATE: December 20, 2017

At its most recent meeting on December 7, 2017, the Legislative Ethics Commission (LEC) received a report from Special Legislative Inspector General (LIG) Julie Porter regarding the backlog of 27 ethics complaints received prior to her appointment on November 3, 2017. Pursuant to 5 ILCS 430/25-21(f), the following is a summary the LIG's report to the LEC regarding the current disposition of those complaints.

LIG Porter noted that between December 2014 and November 3, 2017, the Office of the Legislative Inspector General received 27 written requests for investigation. She has been able to review all of these complaints. LIG Porter also completed a review of phone messages directed to the LIG and determined that none of those verbal complaints warrants investigation.

Based upon her review of these written requests, LIG Porter has determined that 10 requests involve matters that appear to be within the jurisdiction of the Office and warrant further consideration. She indicated that these cases have received only a preliminary review at this time. She still could conclude in some instances that further investigation is moot or otherwise inappropriate for investigation, or that the matter may more appropriately be referred elsewhere.

Of the other 17 complaints, 13 of these requests involve matters that clearly are not within the jurisdiction of the Office of Legislative Inspector General; two involve matters where the subject of the complaint is no longer a member of the General Assembly, thus no longer under the jurisdiction of the LIG; one complaint is too vague to be the subject of an investigation; and one would be a matter for investigation, but the complainant has advised the LIG that he or she does not wish to pursue the complaint and that it had been adjudicated earlier in the year by another entity.

LIG Porter has attempted to communicate with all non-anonymous complainants concerning receipt of their requests. When she concluded that a matter was not within her jurisdiction, she so advised the complainant.

The Office of the Legislative Inspector General has also received new complaints for investigation, and her Office intends to consider those expeditiously.