

# Memorandum



CITY OF DALLAS  
(Report No. I17-001)

DATE: October 7, 2016

TO: A.C. Gonzalez, City Manager

SUBJECT: Investigative Report:  
Department of Dallas Fire-Rescue – Allegation of Fire Code Violations

This report provides results of a review by the Office of the City Auditor (Office) of an allegation that the Department of Dallas Fire-Rescue (DFR) “covered up” fire code violations at the Black Police Officers Association (BPOA) building.<sup>1</sup>

On October 28, 2015, the Office was forwarded an anonymous letter received by a City of Dallas (City) Councilmember. The letter contained allegations related to the DFR inspection of the BPOA building. The allegations include: (1) the BPOA building had “many” fire code violations; (2) the BPOA building elevator system is “under violation” with the State of Texas; and, (3) a member of DFR had someone “cover up” the violations.

Although DFR had previously received a complaint and inspected elevator related issues at the BPOA building in October 2013, DFR again inspected the BPOA building on February 19, 2016. This inspection revealed 17 conditions / violations at the BPOA building, including not having fire alarm notification devices on the second floor in the assembly use areas and not having monitoring for the fire alarm system. The allegations related to the BPOA building fire code violations were substantiated. The Office’s review of DFR’s inquiry found insufficient evidence to substantiate that a DFR member had someone “cover up” the violations.

On September 30, 2016, DFR Management responded and explained it is not uncommon when inspecting occupancies multiple times to find different violations on different dates. Some violations (like providing and maintaining fire alarm systems, providing and maintaining the automatic sprinkler systems, and locking and blocking exit doors and windows) are typical of what is found during re-inspections of buildings. Other violations may not have been present at the time of the original inspection or may have been inadvertently missed by the original inspector.

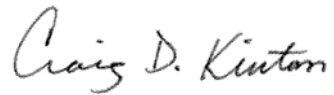
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<sup>1</sup> City of Dallas’ Administrative Directive 2-14: *Fraud, Waste and Abuse Procedures* directs the Office to report to the City Manager specified investigative audit findings. Investigations by the Office are considered nonaudit projects under the Government Audit Standards and are conducted in accordance with Quality Standards for Inspection and Evaluation established by the Council of the Inspectors General on Integrity and Efficiency, Association of Certified Fraud Examiners Code of Professional Ethics, and City Code.

A.C. Gonzalez, City Manager  
October 7, 2016  
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If you have any questions or would like to be briefed regarding this matter, please contact me at 214-670-3222.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Craig D. Kinton". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Craig D. Kinton  
City Auditor

C: Honorable Members of the Budget, Finance & Audit Committee  
Larry Casto, City Attorney  
Eric D. Campbell, Assistant City Manager  
Chief David Coatney – Department of Dallas Fire-Rescue  
Jeanne Chipperfield, Chief of Ethics and Compliance