

CHAIRMAN HARRIS AND CHAIRMAN O'CONNOR:

THANK YOU FOR HOLDING THIS HEARING ON
ETHICS OVERSIGHT FOR CITY COUNCIL.

MY FELLOW COUNCIL MEMBERS,

I AM CHIEF SPONSOR OF THE MEASURE
CALLING FOR THE MERGER OF THE OFFICES OF
THE LIG AND THE IG, I BELIEVE WE NEED TO
MOVE ON THIS **TODAY** BECAUSE **TODAY** THERE
IS A NEED FOR OVERSIGHT OF CITY COUNCIL.
BECAUSE **TODAY** WE FACE A CRITICAL NEED
FOR SMARTER, MORE EFFICIENT
GOVERNMENT. AND, ABOVE ALL, **TODAY** WE
MUST DO ALL WE CAN TO ADDRESS THE CRISIS
OF CONFIDENCE THAT EXISTS IN OUR CITY.

WE NEED TO MOVE THIS MEASURE FORWARD
BECAUSE THE ISSUE HAS LANGUISHED FOR AT
LEAST 5 YEARS, CERTAINLY SINCE I HAVE
BECOME ALDERMAN. WE **MUST** ASSURE THE
CITIZENS OF CHICAGO, THAT WE ARE PART OF
THE **SOLUTION** AND NOT PART OF THE
PROBLEM IN OUR CITY.

THE HANDCUFFS PLACED ON THE LIG'S
POWERS HAVE ANGERED ALMOST EVERYONE.
A CHECKERED HISTORY. PASSED ON MAY 12,

WHEN THE LIG ORDINANCE PASSED MAY 12, 2010, BY A VOTE OF 28-17, ALDERMAN JOE MOORE PREDICTED IT WOULD BE A “TOOTHLESS TIGER” – AND IT HAS BEEN.

WE MUST ACT. I UNDERSTAND THAT SOME AGREE THAT THE IG SHOULD TAKE OVER OVERSIGHT OF CITY COUNCIL AND SOME DO NOT, BUT UNTIL WE VOTE, THE PUBLIC WILL ASSUME THAT NONE OF US IS WILLING TO ADHERE TO A HIGHER STANDARD OF ETHICS.

SINCE MAY 12, 2010, MORE THAN **HALF OF THE CITY COUNCIL HAS TURNED OVER**. OF THE 27 NEW MEMBERS, AT LEAST 16 ARE CO-SPONSORS OR SUPPORTERS OF THE MERGER ORDINANCE. SUPPORT HAS SHIFTED.

THE FEAR WE HEAR MOST OFTEN FROM SOME ABOUT VESTING THE EXECUTIVE INSPECTOR GENERAL WITH POWER OVER ALDERMEN IS THAT BASELESS, ANONYMOUS ALLEGATIONS DESIGNED SIMPLY TO POLITICALLY EMBARRASS ALDERMEN WILL BE AIRED.

IT SHOULDN'T SURPRISE ANYONE THAT BASELESS, ANONYMOUS ACCUSATIONS CAN BE MADE IN ANY INVESTIGATIVE SYSTEM. BUT IT DOES NOT FOLLOW THAT SIMPLY BECAUSE AN ACCUSATION **CAN** BE MADE THAT AN INVESTIGATION MUST TAKE PLACE.

THE DUTY OF ANY INVESTIGATOR IS NOT ONLY TO SCRUTINIZE THE POTENTIALLY GUILTY, BUT TO SCREEN ALLEGATIONS TO PROTECT THE INNOCENT. FRANKLY, A PROSECUTOR WHO BELIEVES HIS JOB IS TO GARNER PUBLICITY AND MAKE CHARGES, RATHER THAN PURSUE **JUSTICE**, DOESN'T DESERVE THE JOB.

A WELL-QUALIFIED INSPECTOR GENERAL, VESTED WITH BROAD POWERS, GOOD INTERNAL PROCESSES AND A ROBUST BUDGET, PROVIDES BETTER PROTECTION FOR THE TAXPAYERS AND ELECTED OFFICIALS ALIKE. IT IS TIME TO GET OVERSIGHT OF CITY COUNCIL RIGHT – AND MAKE THE CITY INSPECTOR GENERAL RESPONSIBLE FOR INVESTIGATIONS OF ALDERMEN AND THEIR STAFFS UNDER THE SAME STANDARDS AS EVERY OTHER CITY OFFICIAL.

REGARDLESS OF WHY THIS AGENDA WAS CHANGED, WE CAN VOTE NOW.

THERE IS A **CRESCENDO** OF VOICES WITHIN THIS COUNCIL DEMANDING HIGHER CONDUCT OF OTHERS...AND I AGREE. IF WE DO NOT SUBMIT TO APPROPRIATE OVERSIGHT, THEN OUR **SILENCE** WILL BE **ABSOLUTELY DEAFENING**. OUR MOMENT WILL BE **LOST**. WE CANNOT CRY FOR TRANSPARENCY,

RESPONSIVENESS AND ACCOUNTABILITY IN GOVERNMENT IF THIS CHAMBER, AND THOSE IN IT, REFUSE TO SUBMIT TO THAT SAME STANDARD.

IF WE DON'T TAKE A STAND, WE ARE TELLING VOTERS WE ARE MORE INTERESTED IN SELF-PROTECTION THAN HONEST OVERSIGHT.

AS THE CHICAGO SUN-TIMES EDITORIALIZED THE WEEKEND, "A LEGISLATIVE BODY THAT DEMANDS IT BE TREATED RESPECTFULLY AS A FULL PARTNER IN THE BUSINESS OF RUNNING A BIG CITY IS SPITTING INTO THE WIND IF IT IS NOT ALSO PREPARED TO BE HELD FULLY ACCOUNTABLE."

THERE IS A SOLUTION RIGHT IN FRONT OF US. IT IS NOT COMPLICATED OR EXPENSIVE. THE TWO OFFICES SHOULD MERGE.

I URGE SUPPORT FOR THE MERGER OF THE TWO OFFICES AND THE ADOPTION OF ORDINANCE O2015-2449.