

Introduced _____
Public Hearing _____
Council Action _____
Executive Action _____
Effective Date _____

County Council of Howard County, Maryland

2024 Legislative Session

Legislative Day No. 9

Resolution No. 107 -2024

Introduced by: Opel Jones, Deb Jung, Christiana Rigby, Liz Walsh, and David Yungmann

SHORT TITLE: Charter Amendment – Office of the Inspector General

A RESOLUTION proposing to amend the County Charter to create an Office of the Inspector General.

Introduced and read first time _____, 2024.

By order _____
Michelle Harrod, Administrator

Read for a second time at a public hearing on _____, 2024.

By order _____
Michelle Harrod, Administrator

This Resolution was read the third time and was Adopted___, Adopted with amendments___, Failed___, Withdrawn___, by the County Council on _____, 2024.

Certified By _____
Michelle Harrod, Administrator

NOTE: [[text in brackets]] indicates deletions from existing law; TEXT IN SMALL CAPITALS indicates additions to existing law; ~~Strike-out~~ indicates material deleted by amendment; Underlining indicates material added by amendment.

1 **BE IT RESOLVED** by the County Council of Howard County, Maryland, that upon approval of
2 the voters of Howard County, the County Charter is amended to add Section 915 “Office of the Inspector
3 General,” to read as follows:
4

5 **SECTION 915. – OFFICE OF THE INSPECTOR GENERAL.**
6

- 7 (A) THERE IS AN OFFICE OF THE INSPECTOR GENERAL, OF WHICH THE HEAD IS THE INSPECTOR
8 GENERAL. THE OFFICE OF THE INSPECTOR GENERAL IS AN INDEPENDENT OFFICE AND
9 SHALL CONDUCT THEIR WORK WITHOUT INTERFERENCE FROM THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE OR
10 THE COUNTY COUNCIL. THE PURPOSE OF THE OFFICE OF THE INSPECTOR GENERAL IS TO
11 PROVIDE INCREASED ACCOUNTABILITY AND OVERSIGHT IN THE OPERATIONS OF ANY
12 DEPARTMENT, OFFICE, OR ENTITY RECEIVING FUNDS FROM THE COUNTY GOVERNMENT BY:
13 (1) INVESTIGATING FRAUD, WASTE, AND ABUSE; AND
14 (2) IDENTIFYING WAYS TO PROMOTE EFFICIENCY, ACCOUNTABILITY, COMPLIANCE, AND
15 INTEGRITY.
- 16 (B) THE COUNTY COUNCIL SHALL, BY ORDINANCE, SPECIFY THE STRUCTURE AND FUNCTION OF
17 THE OFFICE OF THE INSPECTOR GENERAL. THE ORDINANCE SHALL INCLUDE, BUT NOT BE
18 LIMITED TO, PROVISIONS THAT ESTABLISH THE PROCESS FOR APPOINTMENT, REMOVAL, AND
19 OVERSIGHT OF THE INSPECTOR GENERAL.
- 20 (C) THE COUNTY COUNCIL MAY PROVIDE FOR A CITIZEN BOARD THAT IS NOT SUBJECT TO
21 CHARTER SECTION 404.
- 22 (D) THE OFFICE OF THE INSPECTOR GENERAL MAY AT ITS DISCRETION, AND SUBJECT TO THE
23 PROVISIONS IN ITS BUDGET OR SUPPLEMENTARY APPROPRIATION, EMPLOY SUCH LEGAL,
24 FINANCIAL OR OTHER TECHNICAL ADVISORS AS IT MAY FROM TIME TO TIME DEEM
25 NECESSARY FOR THE PERFORMANCE OF ANY OF ITS FUNCTIONS.
- 26 (E) NOTWITHSTANDING SECTION 602 OF THIS CHARTER, THE COUNTY BUDGET SHALL ALSO
27 INCLUDE THE BUDGET AS SUBMITTED BY THE OFFICE OF THE INSPECTOR GENERAL.
28

29 **AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** by the County Council of Howard County, Maryland,
30 that at the next general election to be held in Maryland, the proposed amendment to the Howard County
31 Charter shall be submitted to the voters of Howard County for their adoption or rejection in accordance
32 with the provisions of the Article X of the Howard County Charter and Article XI-A of the Maryland

1 Constitution, and if adopted by the majority of the voters, shall stand adopted from and after the 30th day
2 following the general election.

3

4 **AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** by the County Council of Howard County, Maryland,
5 that this Resolution, having been approved by two-thirds of the members of the Howard County Council,
6 stands adopted this ___ day of _____, 2024 in accordance with provisions of Article X of the
7 Howard County Charter.