



NEWS RELEASE

JOHN F. YOUNG, JR.
PARISH PRESIDENT
March 9, 2011

ATTORNEY GENERAL ISSUES OPINION ON JEFFERSON PARISH INSPECTOR GENERAL

Jefferson Parish President John F. Young announced today he received an opinion from the Attorney General's office regarding the creation and authority of the Jefferson Parish Office of Inspector General. The opinion was requested by parish officials to determine the lawful extent of an Inspector General's power to audit or investigate all parish agencies, which is a major recommendation made by the Advisory Committee for the Establishment of an Office of Inspector General in its September 22, 2010 report.

"This Attorney General's opinion is a significant step toward institutional reform throughout Jefferson Parish Government," Young said. "It will serve as the framework to craft local legislation that serves to implement and enforce vigorous ethical standards and codes of conduct for elected officials and public employees. We intend on making every effort to educate our citizens on the benefit to Jefferson Parish that an independent Office of Inspector General will bring."

The Attorney General's opinion is posted on the parish's web site www.jeffparish.net and Young recommends all voters review the document. The Parish Council at its April 6th meeting will consider putting a Charter amendment proposition on the October 22nd ballot to create the Inspector General's position, its supervisory Ethics and Compliance Commission, and to establish a dedicated source of funding for both. The Attorney General's opinion states in summary, that pursuant to state law and subject to an amendment to the parish Charter, Jefferson Parish may establish a local Office of Inspector General with the power to audit, investigate, inspect or conduct a performance review of any agency that receives funds through or for the benefit of Jefferson Parish, and any other parish agency to the extent necessary in order to ensure that any funds and assets provided by parish government to the agency are used appropriately.

Young stated, "Public office and employment should serve the highest standards of honesty and competence, and the goal of the Inspector General will be to restore the public's full confidence and trust in the integrity of its parish government."

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