

Statement from the Office of Inspector General Advisory Board Chairman Gayle Guilford

The Office of the Inspector General (OIG) Advisory Board was formed in 2022 as a function of the Charter Amendment approved overwhelmingly by the voters. The board's composition was designed to remove all elected officials and city employees from oversight and to minimize their role in the processes and duties of the Board. The only previous members that were asked to stay on the Board were the two Deans of the Maryland State Law schools.

The Advisory Board consists of 11 Members. Among them, as "*ex officio*" members, were the two Deans of Maryland's two law schools, the University of Baltimore's School of Law and the University of Maryland Francis King Carey School of Law. Both law schools are located within the jurisdiction of Baltimore City.

Dean LaVonda Reed of the University of Baltimore School of Law and Dean Renee H. Laurent of the University of Maryland School of Law have jointly decided to leave the OIG Advisory Board effective June 17, 2026. They stated, "As Deans of the State's only two law schools, we each carry broad and demanding portfolios that span faculty leadership, student success, accreditation, development, clinical legal education, and extensive community engagement. Given these responsibilities, we have found it increasingly difficult to sustain the level of meaningful participation on the Advisory Board that we believe it deserves".

The Deans submitted their letter of resignation on Friday and the Advisory Board thanks them for their outstanding service to the Board and the Citizens of Baltimore. Their joint recommendation was to continue forward with the current complement of members.

In the joint letter of resignation, the Deans explained, "After thoughtful consideration, we concluded that the Advisory Board's primary responsibilities are functions that do not require legal academic expertise. In light of this, we have determined not only to tender our own resignations, but also not to appoint designated representatives from our respective institutions. We believe that the Board's current complement of members is well-positioned to continue carrying out its duties effectively."

The Board agrees with the Deans' advice to move forward and we will proceed with the current Board which currently has three excellent attorneys among the members. As Chair, I wish to thank both Dean Reed and Dean Laurent for their service. The departure of the Deans will have no impact on the ability of the Board to perform their duties.