



City of Albuquerque
Accountability in Government Oversight Committee
P.O. Box 1293 Albuquerque, New Mexico 87103

September 17, 2025

Dan Lewis
City Council, District 5
City of Albuquerque

RE: Response to September 3, 2025 Letter

Dear Councilor Lewis,

The Accountability in Government Oversight Committee (AGOC) remains committed to ensuring that every report from the Office of Inspector General (OIG) meets the highest standards of accuracy, independence, and integrity before being released to the public. This commitment is in furtherance of the AGOC's oversight duties and responsibilities of the OIG, as required under the City's Accountability in Government Ordinance.

Contrary to the assertions in your September 3, 2025 letter and the City Council meeting on September 15, 2025, the AGOC has not, and will not, act in violation of the Ordinance or the City Charter.

We respect and acknowledge your concerns; however, the record demonstrates the AGOC's diligence to protect the credibility and reliability of the OIG's reports. The OIG submitted nine (9) reports to the AGOC on March 20, 2025, in preparation for the AGOC meeting scheduled for March 26, 2025. Given the voluminous nature of the submitted reports, and that the AGOC had previously instructed the former OIG to provide the Board with all reports to be presented **at least fourteen (14) days prior** to the scheduled meeting, the AGOC postponed the meeting to April 9, 2025 to ensure all Board members had sufficient time to meaningfully review the reports and supporting material prior to their presentation.

On April 9, 2025, the OIG presented the nine (9) reports to the AGOC for consideration. Upon review and consideration, the AGOC approved three (3) reports and deferred action on six (6) reports. The decision to defer these reports was not made lightly, and was based on serious concerns raised by all committee members regarding the quality and credibility of the reports. This deferral ensured an external Quality Assurance Review (QAR) could be conducted by an independent third party.

REDW was contracted to conduct the QAR, which was completed on August 15, 2025. Throughout the process, the AGOC stayed in regular communication with REDW to ensure the QAR was proceeding expeditiously. Upon the completion of the QAR, REDW shared its preliminary findings with the AGOC and OIG. After being briefed by REDW on its findings during the QAR, the Interim Inspector General agreed to complete a thorough review of the deferred reports, and advised he expected to complete the reviews at a rate of two (2) reports a month.

The AGOC and the OIG are working together to ensure both transparency and accuracy. All final reports will be presented to the AGOC and published as required by City Ordinance. The AGOC will additionally publish REDW's final QAR and recommendations, as well as the original reports they reviewed as presented to the committee so the public will be able to see not only the full reports, but also the extensive work the AGOC has undertaken to ensure **all** OIG reports are accurate and reliable, and conform to every professional standard required by City Ordinance.

Importantly, the AGOC consists of five citizen volunteer members who graciously and proudly commit their time, expertise, experience, and energies to the purpose of ensuring good, transparent and accountable governance. This service is to the citizens of Albuquerque, who deserve transparent and reliable reporting that enhances the effectiveness and efficiency of their government's services. The AGOC's actions on these reports, while difficult and painstaking, have been necessary and in furtherance of these ideals.

The AGOC will meet or exceed its required meeting schedule of four (4) meetings per year, having already met on April 9, 2025 and July 30, 2025 to consider reports from the OIG and/or City Auditor. The AGOC was scheduled to meet on August 27, 2025, but this meeting was canceled due to the OIG and the City Auditor not having any reports to present to the AGOC. The AGOC's next scheduled meeting to consider reports presented by the OIG and/or City Auditor is October 29, 2025. The AGOC will continue to hold regular and special meetings as needed to fulfill its duties as required by City Ordinance in its continued commitment to the people of Albuquerque. Importantly, the OIG has not presented any reports to the AGOC, whether new reports or the deferred reports, since the April 9, 2025 meeting.

Finally, as mandated by City Ordinance, the OIG cannot make these reports public until fifteen (15) days from the date of the AGOC's last review or consideration. The OIG has not presented the reports back to the AGOC, and the AGOC has not reviewed or considered the reports since deferral. Therefore, the reports cannot be made public at this time.

We respectfully request that future concerns be directed to the AGOC for clarification, to prevent the spread of misinformation and to support an informed public understanding of this critical process.

Sincerely,

**Accountability and Government Oversight Committee
City of Albuquerque**

Victor Griego, Chairperson

Esteban A. Aguilar, Jr., Vice-Chair
Robert J. Aragon, Committee Member
Lia Armstrong, Committee Member
Brook Bassan, Albuquerque City Council President, Committee Member
Carla Martinez, Associate Chief Administrative Officer, Committee Member

cc.

Samantha Sengel, Chief Administrative Officer
Lauren Keefe, City Attorney
Klarissa Pena, Albuquerque City Council Vice President, District 3
Louie Sanchez, Albuquerque City Council Member, District 1
Joaquin Baca, Albuquerque City Council Member, District 2
Nichole Rogers, Albuquerque City Council Member, District 6
Tammy Fiebelkorn, Albuquerque City Council Member, District 7
Dan Champine, Albuquerque City Council Member, District 8
Renee Grout, Albuquerque City Council Member, District 9