



## **New York City Charter (Chapter 34) Department of Investigation**

§ 801. **Department; commissioner.** There shall be a department of investigation the head of which shall be the commissioner of investigation. The commissioner shall be a member of the bar of the state of New York in good standing and shall have had at least five years of law enforcement experience. The mayor may remove the commissioner upon filing in the office of the commissioner of citywide administrative services and serving upon the commissioner of investigation the reasons therefor and allowing such officer an opportunity of making a public explanation.

§ 802. **Deputies.** The commissioner may appoint two deputies, either of whom may, subject to the direction of the commissioner, conduct or preside at any investigations authorized by this chapter.

§ 803. **Powers and duties.** a. The commissioner shall make any investigation directed by the mayor or the council.

b. The commissioner is authorized and empowered to make any study or investigation which in his opinion may be in the best interests of the city, including but not limited to investigations of the affairs, functions, accounts, methods, personnel or efficiency of any agency.

c. 1. The commissioner shall, on an ongoing basis, investigate, review, study, audit and make recommendations relating to the operations, policies, programs and practices, including ongoing partnerships with other law enforcement agencies, of the New York city police department with the goal of enhancing the effectiveness of the department, increasing public safety, protecting civil liberties and civil rights, and increasing the public's confidence in the police force, thus building stronger police-community relations.

2. Not later than ninety days after the effective date of the local law that added this subdivision, the commissioner shall report to the council regarding the identity and qualifications of the individual responsible for overseeing the implementation of the duties described in paragraph 1 of this subdivision, the number of personnel assigned to assist that individual, and the details of the management structure covering them. Upon removal or replacement of the individual responsible for overseeing the implementation of the duties described in paragraph 1 of this subdivision, notification of that removal or replacement, and the identity and qualifications of the new individual responsible for overseeing the implementation of the duties described in paragraph 1 of this subdivision, shall be provided to the council.

3. The Mayor, in consultation with the department and the New York city police department, shall have the discretion to determine how sensitive information provided to the department in connection with any investigation,

review, study, or audit undertaken pursuant to this section shall be treated. The Mayor shall provide the Council with any guidelines, procedures, protocols or similar measures related to the treatment of sensitive information that he or she puts in place. Sensitive information shall mean information concerning (a) ongoing civil or criminal investigations or proceedings; (b) undercover operations; (c) the identity of confidential sources, including protected witnesses; (d) intelligence or counterintelligence matters; or (e) other matters the disclosure of which would constitute a serious threat to national security or to the safety of the people of the city of New York.

4. The executive director of the civilian complaint review board and the chief of the New York city police department's internal affairs bureau shall report to the commissioner any problems and deficiencies relating to the New York city police department's operations, policies, programs and practices that he or she has reason to believe would adversely affect the effectiveness of the department, public safety, the exercise of civil liberties and civil rights, or the public's confidence in the police force, and that would be relevant to the duties of the commissioner as described in paragraph 1 of this subdivision.

5. No officer or employee of an agency of the city shall take any adverse personnel action with respect to another officer or employee in retaliation for his or her making a complaint to, disclosing information to, or responding to queries from the commissioner pursuant to activities undertaken under paragraph 1 of this subdivision unless the complaint was made or the information was disclosed with the knowledge that it was false or with willful disregard for its truth or falsity. Any officer or employee who believes he or she has been retaliated against for making such complaint to, disclosing such information to, or responding to such queries from the commissioner may report such action to the commissioner as provided for in subdivision c of section 12-113 of the administrative code.

6. The department's website shall provide a link for individuals to report any problems and deficiencies relating to the New York city police department's operations, policies, programs and practices. Individuals making such reports shall not be required to provide personally identifying information.

d. 1. For any investigation made pursuant to subdivision a or b of this section, the commissioner shall prepare a written report or statement of findings and shall forward a copy of such report or statement to the requesting party, if any. In the event that any matter investigated, reviewed, studied, or audited pursuant to this section involves or may involve allegations of criminal conduct, the commissioner, upon completion of the investigation, review, study, or audit, shall also forward a copy of his or her written report or statement of findings to the appropriate prosecuting attorney, or, in the event the matter investigated, reviewed, studied, or audited involves or may involve a conflict of interest or unethical conduct, to the conflicts of interest board.

2. For any investigation, review, study, or audit made pursuant to paragraph one of subdivision c of this section, the commissioner shall prepare a written report or statement of findings and shall forward a copy of such report or statement to the mayor, the council, and the police commissioner upon completion. Within ninety days of receiving such report or statement, the police

commissioner shall provide a written response to the commissioner, the mayor, and the council. Each such written report or statement, along with a summary of its findings, as well as the reports described in paragraph 3 of this subdivision, shall be posted on the department's website in a format that is searchable and downloadable and that facilitates printing no later than ten days after it is delivered to the mayor, the council, and the police department. All such reports, statements, and summaries so posted on the department's website shall be made easily accessible from a direct link on the homepage of the website of the department.

3. In addition to the reports and statements of findings to be delivered to the mayor, the council, and the police commissioner pursuant to paragraph 2 of this subdivision, there shall be an annual summary report on the activities undertaken pursuant to paragraph 1 of subdivision c of this section containing the following information: (a) a description of all significant findings from the investigations, reviews, studies, and audits conducted in the preceding year; (b) a description of the recommendations for corrective action made in the preceding year; (c) an identification of each recommendation described in previous annual reports on which corrective action has not been implemented or completed; and (d) the number of open investigations, reviews, studies, or audits that have been open, as of the close of the preceding calendar year, for a time period of 1) six months up to and including one year, 2) more than one year up to and including two years, 3) more than two years up to and including three years, and 4) more than three years. The annual summary report required by this paragraph shall be completed and delivered to the mayor, the council, and the police commissioner on April 1, 2015 and every April 1 thereafter.

e. The jurisdiction of the commissioner shall extend to any agency, officer, or employee of the city, or any person or entity doing business with the city, or any person or entity who is paid or receives money from or through the city or any agency of the city.

f. The commissioner shall forward to the council and to the mayor a copy of all reports and standards prepared by the corruption prevention and management review bureau, upon issuance by the commissioner.

§ 804. **Complaint bureau.** There shall be a complaint bureau in the department which shall receive complaints from the public, including, but not limited to, complaints about any problems and deficiencies relating to the New York city police department's operations, policies, programs and practices.

§ 805. **Conduct of investigations.** a. For the purpose of ascertaining facts in connection with any study or investigation authorized by this chapter, the commissioner and each deputy shall have full power to compel the attendance of witnesses, to administer oaths and to examine such persons as he may deem necessary.

b. The commissioner or any agent or employee of the department duly designated in writing by him for such purposes may administer oaths or affirmations, examine witnesses in public or private hearing, receive evidence and preside at or conduct any such study or investigation.

§ 806. **Interference with investigation.** [Became § 1128].\*

§ 807. **Inspectors general of agencies.** No person shall be appointed as an inspector general of a city agency unless such appointment is approved by the commissioner of investigation. The commissioner of investigation shall promulgate standards of conduct and shall monitor and evaluate the activities of inspectors general in the agencies to assure uniformity of activity by them.

\* § 1128. **Interference with investigation.** a. No person shall prevent, seek to prevent, interfere with, obstruct, or otherwise hinder any study or investigation being conducted pursuant to the charter. Any violation of this section shall constitute cause for suspension or removal from office or employment.

b. Full cooperation with the commissioner of investigation shall be afforded by every officer or employee of the city or other persons.