

CREW | citizens for responsibility and ethics in washington

April 13, 2018

Inspector General Scott Dahl, Chairman
Inspector General Deborah Jeffrey, Vice-Chair
Council of the Inspectors General on Integrity and Efficiency, Integrity Committee
1717 H Street, N.W.
Suite 825
Washington, DC 20006

Re: Request for Investigation of EPA Assistant Inspector General for Investigations
Patrick Sullivan

Dear Inspectors General Dahl and Jeffrey:

Citizens for Responsibility and Ethics in Washington (“CREW”) respectfully requests that Council of the Inspectors General on Integrity and Efficiency Integrity Committee investigate whether EPA Assistant Inspector General for Investigations Patrick Sullivan engaged in conduct that undermined his independence or integrity.

The *New York Times* reported yesterday that one of EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt’s top aides, Pasquale Perrotta, is at the center of matters under investigation by the EPA Inspector General, and that

Mr. Perrotta and the assistant inspector general who oversees investigation, Patrick Sullivan, have been spotted drinking beers together at Elephant and Castle, a bar across the street from the E.P.A. headquarters. The men were both with the Secret Service before coming to the E.P.A. Mr. Perrotta initially worked in the inspector general’s office when he arrived at the agency, and moved to the security detail late in George W. Bush’s presidency.¹

The *Times* further reported that “[a] spokesman for the inspector general did not dispute that Mr. Perrotta and Mr. Sullivan were ‘friendly’ but disputed that they socialized outside of work and added that the office has ‘impairment and impartiality requirements’ intended to prevent bias in any investigation.”²

As you know, the “statutory mandate of the Integrity Committee (‘IC’) of the Council of the Inspectors General on Integrity and Efficiency (‘CIGIE’) is to receive, review, and refer for investigation allegations of wrongdoing made against Inspectors General or Acting Inspectors General who are members of CIGIE (‘IGs’), designated members of the senior staffs of those

¹ Kenneth P. Vogel, Eric Lipton, and Lisa Friedman, *At E.P.A., Pruitt’s ‘Sheriff’ Clashed With Critics of Spending*, *New York Times*, Apr. 12, 2018, available at <https://www.nytimes.com/2018/04/12/climate/epa-scott-pruitt-pasquale-perrotta.html>.

² *Id.*

IGs, and the Special Counsel and Deputy Special Counsel of the Office of Special Counsel ('OSC'), and to ensure the fair, consistent, timely, and impartial disposition of allegations that fall within the IC's statutory mandate."³

The Integrity Committee Policies and Procedures for 2018, section 7, "IC Review Process and Actions," contains the following "Threshold standard":

The IC takes action on allegations of wrongdoing against a Covered Person that involve abuse of authority in the exercise of official duties or while acting under color of office, substantial misconduct, such as gross mismanagement, gross waste of funds, or a substantial violation of law, rule, or regulation, *or conduct that undermines the independence or integrity reasonably expected of a Covered Person.*⁴

It appears that the information set forth in the *Times* article merits review by the Integrity Committee as conduct that may undermine the independence or integrity reasonably expected of Mr. Sullivan, and so the critically important investigation or investigations currently being undertaken by the EPA Inspector General.

Thank you for your consideration of this matter.

Sincerely,



Noah Bookbinder
Executive Director



Ambassador (Ret.) Norman L. Eisen
Chair

³ Council of the Inspectors General on Integrity and Efficiency, Integrity Committee, Policies and Procedures 2018, available at https://www.ignet.gov/sites/default/files/files/Integrity_Committee_Policies_and_Procedures_Revised_Jan-2018_Final.pdf. See also 5 U.S.C. app. § 11(d).

⁴ *Id.* (emphasis added).