



DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE | OFFICE OF THE INSPECTOR GENERAL

September 16, 2020

The Honorable Hannibal "Mike" Ware
Inspector General
Office of Inspector General
U.S. Small Business Administration
409 3rd St, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20416

Dear Inspector General Ware:

A required external peer review was conducted in accordance with the Council of the Inspectors General on Integrity and Efficiency's (CIGIE) *Guide for Conducting Peer Reviews of Inspection and Evaluation Organizations of Federal Offices of Inspector General*. The peer review was conducted from March 10 to June 5, 2020. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the peer review was performed remotely after March 17, 2020.

The CIGIE External Peer Review Team (Review Team), composed of the U.S. Department of Justice Office of the Inspector General, the U.S. Postal Service Office of Inspector General, and the Office of the U.S. Treasury Inspector General for Tax Administration, assessed the extent to which the Audits Division, Office of Inspector General for U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA OIG) met seven standards from CIGIE's *Quality Standards for Inspection and Evaluation*, January 2012 (Blue Book). Specifically, the Review Team assessed Quality Control, Planning, Data Collection and Analysis, Evidence, Records Maintenance, Reporting, and Follow-up. The assessment included a review of the SBA OIG Audits Division's internal policies and procedures that implement the seven Blue Book standards. It also included a review of selected inspection and evaluation reports issued between January 1 and December 31, 2019, to determine whether the reports complied with the applicable Blue Book standards and the SBA OIG Audits Division's internal policies and procedures.

The Review Team determined that the SBA OIG Audits Division's policies and procedures generally met the seven Blue Book standards addressed in the external peer review. Three of the four reports reviewed generally met the Blue Book standards and complied with the SBA OIG Audits Division's policies and procedures. One report reviewed, while meeting Blue Book standards, did not comply fully with the SBA OIG Audits Division's internal policies and procedures.

The Review Team issued a letter of comment, dated August 11, 2020, which sets forth specific findings, observations, suggestions, and best practices identified during the peer review. SBA OIG management officials provided a response, dated August 28, 2020, to a draft of the report and letter of comment.

A final letter of comment that sets forth specific findings, observations, and a suggestion and includes your response to a draft of the report and letter of comment is provided separately.

Thank you and your staff for your assistance and professionalism throughout the peer review.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Michael E. Horowitz". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Michael" being more legible than the last name "Horowitz".

Michael E. Horowitz
Inspector General