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**THE CITY OF ATLANTA OFFICE OF THE INSPECTOR GENERAL RELEASES REPORT
DETAILING NONCOMPLIANT PURCHASING RELATED TO THE 2022 SENIOR BALL**

ATLANTA, GA – The City of Atlanta Office of the Inspector General (OIG) has released a report of its investigation into noncompliant purchasing by the Mayor’s Office of Constituent Services for the 2022 Senior Ball. OIG initiated its investigation after discovering a payment dated February 10, 2023, from the City of Atlanta to the Hyatt Regency Atlanta for \$120,653.48 that included in the description area instructions to process the payment as a “professional courtesy” for the 2022 Senior Ball. The Office of the Mayor reported that the term was used to process payments that had not followed the City’s purchasing rules.

OIG’s investigation found:

- Repeated instances of requests from the Executive Offices asking for direct payment approvals as a “professional courtesy” as part of a pattern of purchases and payments that -were not compliant with the City’s procurement and accounting policies
- Expenditures for the 2022 Senior Ball prohibited by the City of Atlanta, Accounts Payable, Travel and Hotel Policy, including City-funded hotel stays for employees, the mayor, and members of the mayor’s family
- Failure to seek approval from Atlanta City Council for 2022 Senior Ball funding
- No ordinance, policy, or agreement establishing the Senior Ball as an official City event— for which City funds, labor, and resources may be expended—notwithstanding the long tradition of the mayor hosting the gala

OIG shared its findings with the Office of the Mayor. In response to OIG’s findings, the Office of the Mayor affirmed this administration’s commitment to compliance with rules and regulations and expressed its intention to address the findings in executing the 2023 Senior Ball. Also, the mayor stated that he intended to reimburse the City for the hotel room costs for himself and his family.

“A culture of compliance starts at the top. While this celebration of Atlanta seniors was colored by procedural lapses,” said Inspector General Shannon K. Manigault, “the Office of the Mayor has expressed its commitment to ensuring that City purchasing protocols are followed.”

OIG referred its findings to the City of Atlanta Ethics Office for review of potential violations of the City’s Ethics Code.

OIG thanks the Office of the Mayor, the Mayor’s Office of Constituent Services, and the Department of Finance for their assistance with this investigation.

This investigation was conducted by Assistant Inspector General Jason A. Speights of the OIG Compliance Division, under the supervision of Deputy Inspector General Shelby J. Williams.

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The City of Atlanta Office of the Inspector General (OIG) is an independent entity charged with fostering and promoting accountability and integrity in city government. Through its Independent Procurement Review and Compliance Divisions, OIG seeks to build public trust in the City of Atlanta government by engaging in prevention, investigation and review, and enforcement to eliminate fraud, waste, abuse, and corruption.