



## UNITED STATES OFFICE OF PERSONNEL MANAGEMENT

Washington, DC 20415

Office of the  
Inspector General

February 1, 2016

President Barack Obama  
The White House  
Washington, DC 20500

Dear President Obama:

I respectfully submit my letter of resignation as the Inspector General for the U.S. Office of Personnel Management, effective February 19, 2016. It has been my great honor to be the longest serving Presidentially-appointed and Senate-confirmed Inspector General in the Federal Government. Every day I, alongside the distinguished men and women in my office, have had the distinct privilege of exercising a strong social consciousness toward protecting and enhancing the public trust.

Our auditing, investigative, and management staff are in a category best described as "Above and Beyond." They truly embody the philosophy that inspired the Inspector General Act of 1978, which is that of unmatched concern over the enormity and variety of wrongdoing in and against our Government. I am proud to inform you that the staff of this organization are careful practitioners of their auditing, law enforcement, and management disciplines – all the while steadfastly remaining independent.

In my decision to resign, Mr. President, I have been comforted on two fronts. First, I am reassured by the knowledge that I will leave this outstanding organization in the most capable hands of Deputy Inspector General Norbert Vint. Mr. Vint has been invaluable at each and every critical decision point that the office has faced. He is a superlative executive. I respectfully ask that you consider nominating him to become the next OPM Inspector General. Mr. Vint is a man of proven organization skill and, most importantly, he is a man of exemplary character. He would prove to be worthy of your trust and confidence.

Second, I am also comforted by the fact that Acting OPM Director Beth Cobert appears to have wrapped her arms around the multitude of challenges currently facing OPM. Further, she seems to be arduously striving to institute high standards of professionalism as she works to reinvigorate this great agency. However, she cannot achieve the goals she has set for herself and for OPM without a permanent and independent Inspector General who will tell her the unvarnished truth about any shortcomings the OIG may discover.

At my nomination hearing over 25 years ago, the Senators asked me how I envisioned my relationship with OPM's leadership. I responded that I intended to build a professional

relationship that fosters cooperation, but which at the same time, recognizes that the Inspector General's legal and primary responsibility is to search for wrongdoing. Both of these elements – independence and cooperation – are essential to the success of any OIG. As I reflect upon my time at OPM, I am pleased that our organization has indeed achieved that balance, thereby enabling us to provide the level of scrutiny and oversight that the American taxpayers expect and deserve.

In closing, I rest my tenure on our office's credo: To know our business and responsibilities better than anyone else and at the end of the day, to be able to say we did what was right.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, reading "Patrick E. McFarland". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Patrick" being the most prominent.

Patrick E. McFarland  
Inspector General

cc: The Honorable Beth F. Cobert, Acting Director, U.S. Office of Personnel  
Management