

Transcript: “A Message from IG Horowitz: The Drug Enforcement Administration’s Management of its Confidential Source Program” – July 2015

Hello. My name is Michael Horowitz, and I am the Inspector General for the U.S. Department of Justice.

Today my office released a report examining the Drug Enforcement Administration’s management of its Confidential Source Program. We initiated this audit after receiving numerous allegations regarding the DEA’s handling and use of its confidential sources.

We found that the DEA’s policy for confidential sources – which was approved by the Justice Department in 2004 – differs in several significant respects from the Department of Justice’s overarching policy for the use of confidential sources. As a result, the DEA’s program lacks sufficient oversight and lacks consistency with the rules governing the DOJ law enforcement components.

For example, the DEA’s policy allows the use of high-risk confidential sources without the special approval required by the DOJ’s policies. The DEA’s policies and practices for authorizing a confidential source to engage in activities that would otherwise be illegal are not in line with DOJ guidance. And the DEA’s reviews of their long-term confidential sources were neither timely nor rigorous, and they sometimes were not conducted at all. We also found that the DEA was providing disability benefits to some confidential sources without any process in place for determining eligibility and reviewing claims.

These findings raise significant concerns for one of the DEA’s most significant and sensitive programs.

Our full report is now available on our website, [oig.justice.gov](http://oig.justice.gov). It contains a full discussion of our findings, as well as our seven recommendations to the DEA to improve the policies and management of its Confidential Source Program.

Online you can also find a podcast in which Deputy Inspector General Rob Storch and I discuss the audit’s findings in depth.

Thank you for joining us today.