

Hello. I'm Michael Horowitz, the Inspector General for the U.S. Department of Justice.

Each year, our office publishes a report describing what we believe are the most pressing challenges facing the Department of Justice. Our new Top Management and Performance Challenges report for 2015 lists eight areas we think the Department should focus on. It is based on our oversight work, research, and judgment throughout the past year.

At the top of our list, we identify security and cost issues in the federal prison system as one of the most important issues that continues to challenge the Department. Another major challenge is cybersecurity and the Department's need to better protect both government and private sector computers from cyberattacks.

This year we also identify a new challenge -- Building Trust and Improving Police-Community Relationships -- as an emerging issue where we think the Department can make a difference. By providing the appropriate leadership, resources, training, and oversight, we believe the Department can help rebuild trust between some of the nation's communities and their police departments, particularly in cities where these relationships have been tested over the past year.

Other issues we identify as challenges this year include:

- safeguarding national security while protecting civil rights,
- overseeing law enforcement programs, and
- promoting ethical conduct throughout the Department;
- as well as protecting taxpayer funds, and
- effectively implementing performance-based management.

As the Department's independent watchdog, we will continue to conduct audits, investigations and reviews throughout the coming year to help the Department meet these challenges.

To learn more, please visit our website, where you can read the full Top Management Challenges report, and also hear a podcast discussing these challenges in more detail.

Thank you for joining us today.