

2022 ANNUAL REPORT



Ethics Division

Office of the Inspector General

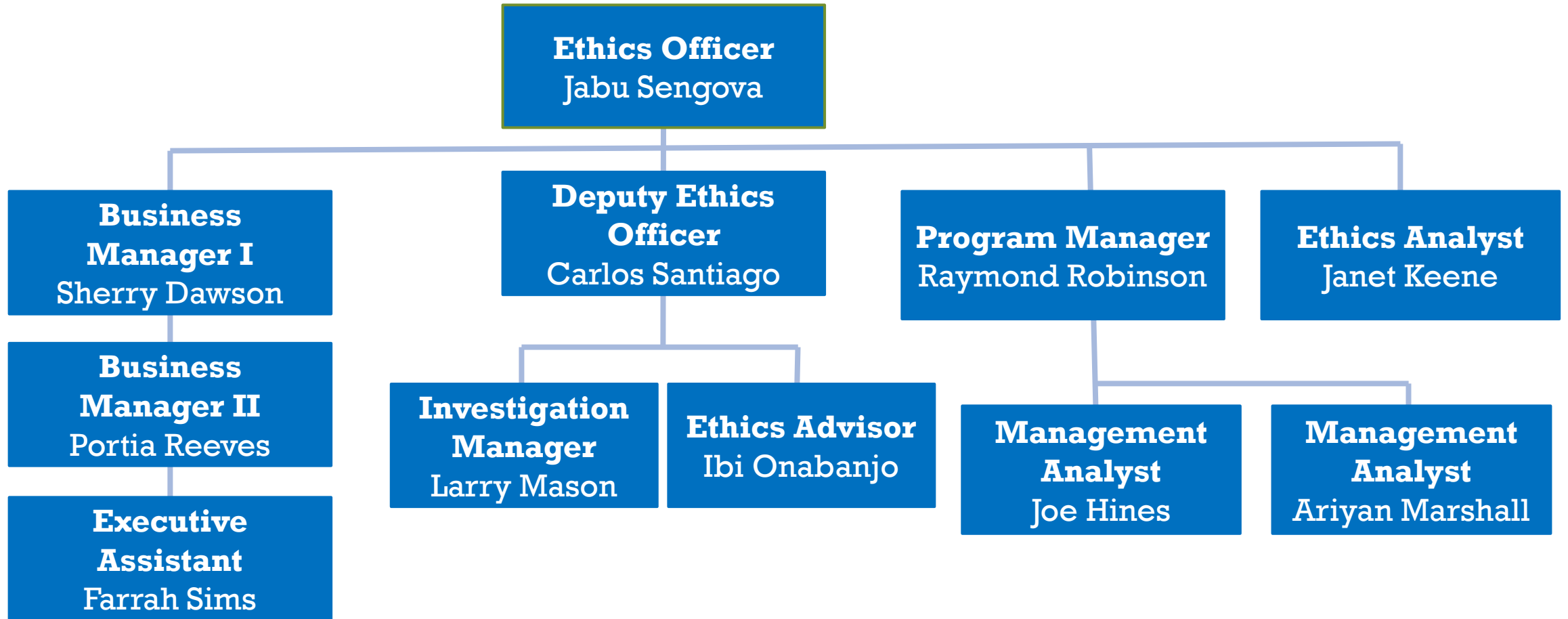
WHO WE ARE

The Ethics Division is an independent office within the Office of the Inspector General headed by the Ethics Officer. The City Ethics Officer is appointed by the Governing Board of the Office of the Inspector General for a period of five years, subject to confirmation by the City Council and approval by the Mayor.

WHAT WE DO

The Ethics Division provides general and targeted ethics training to city officials, employees, and contractors on the City's Code of Ethics, provides written and oral ethics advice to city officials and employees, investigates complaints falling under the jurisdiction of the Code of Ethics, coordinates the Integrity Line, and manages the City's financial disclosure system.

ORGANIZATIONAL CHART



OPERATIONS

- ❖ Organized **four** regular board meetings via zoom platform, **two** in-person, and **one** in-person board retreat
- ❖ Filled **four** vacant positions on the Governing Board of the Office of the Inspector General
- ❖ Acquired additional space for staff
- ❖ Received additional funding for **three** positions
- ❖ Reclassified/created **two** new positions
- ❖ Hired **one** new staff member

PUBLIC EDUCATION & OUTREACH

- ❖ Created and launched new city-wide online Ethics training course
- ❖ Conducted in-person training sessions for various city departments located off-site
- ❖ Sent out city-wide email blasts throughout the year to promote ethics awareness
- ❖ Published **three** Ethics in Action newsletters, including Holiday Gift Reminders



ETHICS TRAINING

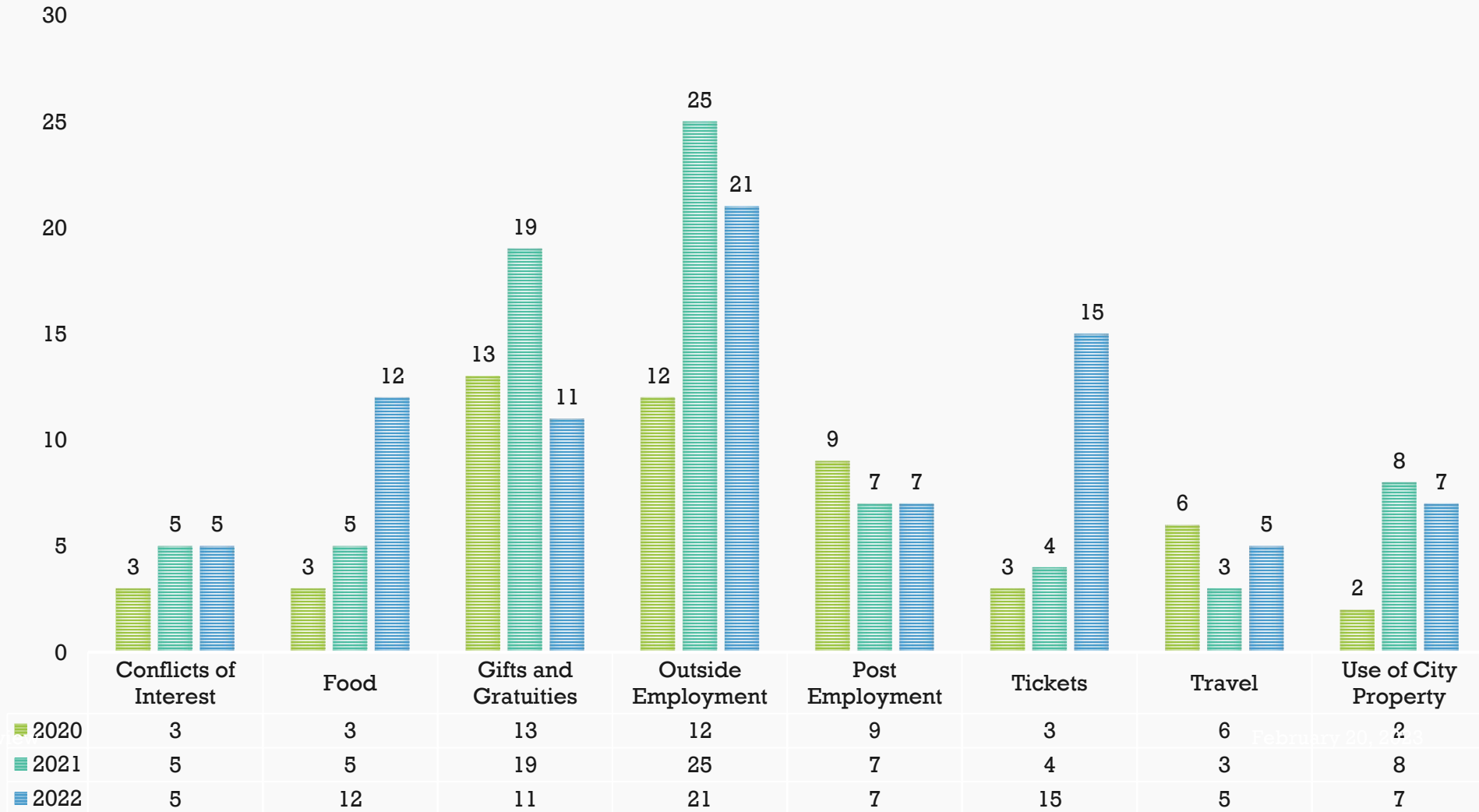
- ❖ Provided virtual and live training to officials, employees, board members, vendors and contractors
- ❖ Trained 7,301 individuals
- ❖ **7,126 city employees received ethics training in 2022 (94% of city employees)**
- ❖ Received 7,126 Ethics pledges
- ❖ Attended 26 pre-bid conferences attended by prospective city contractors and vendors.



ETHICS ADVICE

- ❖ Provided timely ethics advice in approximately **202** requests for written and verbal advice and responded to requests for general information on ethics
- ❖ Amended **two** advisory opinions
- ❖ Issued **three** advisory opinions

TOP SUBJECTS FOR WRITTEN ADVICE 2020 – 2022



FINANCIAL DISCLOSURE



- ❖ Recorded 172 financial disclosure cases for which enforcement was pursued
 - ❖ 150 non filers
 - ❖ 22 late filers
- ❖ Collected \$2,895 worth of fines
- ❖ Timely filing rate of 89%
- ❖ **Overall filing rate of 93%**
- ❖ Total amount of required filers **3,427**

AUDITING OF DISCLOSURE STATEMENTS

- ❖ 2021 and 2020 City Financial Disclosure Statements are currently being audited
 - ❖ **Audited 8.7% of all filers for 2020 statements** (302 of 3480 filers audited)
-

❖ **Annual Audit Samples**

- ❖ High-level employees
- ❖ Elected Officials
- ❖ Specific departments
- ❖ Filers flagged during prior audits
- ❖ Random selection



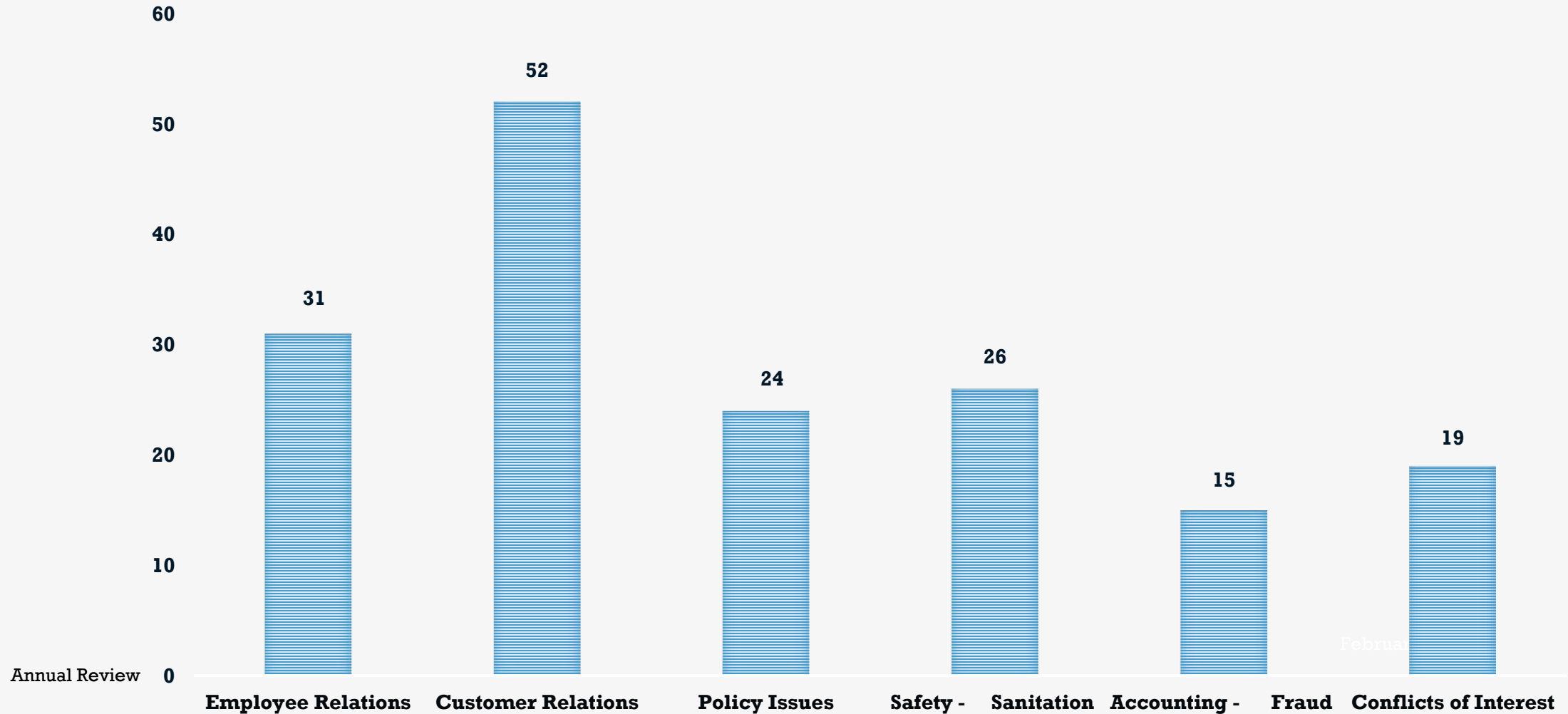
INVESTIGATIONS

- ❖ Received 202 Integrity Line Reports
- ❖ Referred 50 Integrity Line Reports and 18 additional non-ethics matters to other agencies/departments for further review/investigation
- ❖ Opened 27 preliminary reviews/investigations of potential ethics matters
- ❖ Administratively closed/ongoing monitoring of 20 matters
- ❖ Collected \$2,500 in sanction payments ethics matters (Deposited in City of Atlanta General Fund)

REPORT ON THE INTEGRITY LINE

With **202** Integrity Line reports received, 2022 saw a marked increase in the reporting volume, more than doubling the amount received in 2021. The increase in reporting volume from 2021 is mostly attributed to a return to in-person city operations and the launch of the Ethics Division's online ethics training course for city employees, which made specific reference to reporting potential violations and the Integrity Line.

TOP SUBJECTS REPORTING CATEGORIES 2022





**ORGANIZATIONAL
UPDATES AND
PROJECTS**

Ethics Training – new interactive web-based module for employees

Financial Disclosure Process – enhancements and increased security for e-file system

Financial Disclosure Audits – develop automated audit system

Ethics Division Website – update and streamline website



QUESTIONS?

