New Jersey State Commission of Investigation



October 1, 2018 Immediate Release Contact: Kathy Riley, SCI 609-292-6767

SCI CELEBRATES 50TH ANNIVERSARY

TRENTON – New Jersey's only independent government watchdog agency – the State Commission of Investigation – is celebrating its 50th anniversary this fall, marking five decades of service to the citizens of New Jersey by exposing organized crime and corruption, as well as waste, fraud and abuse of tax dollars.

Since its establishment in 1968, the SCI has issued more than 130 public reports and conducted numerous public hearings with investigations on diverse topics ranging from the infiltration of the solid waste industry by organized crime to the abuse of public pension and benefit system to the rise of the heroin and opioid epidemic. The agency has also been the catalyst for numerous important statutory, regulatory and administrative reforms bolstering

the integrity of government at all levels, including some which have saved taxpayers tens of millions of dollars.

"The SCI is an agency that has served New Jersey well, and one that can proudly demonstrate what few others can; Its work has saved far more money for taxpayers than the agency has ever spent for operations," said SCI Executive Director Lee C. Seglem.

Created by the Legislature at a time when there was grave public concern about the rising influence of organized crime and political corruption, the SCI was designed to be an independent agency that would bring facts to the public's attention, refer findings to appropriate law enforcement agencies for possible prosecution and make recommendations to the Governor and the Legislature for improvements in laws and in the operations of government.

Fifty years since its creation, the Commission remains committed to fulfilling its statutory mission to shed a light on wrongdoing and to recommend laws and other remedies to protect the integrity of the governmental process.

"Given the ongoing threat of criminal elements, and the fact that government operations in New Jersey now cost more than \$100 billion a year, counting all sources of tax revenue, the expert fact-finding of the Commission is more crucial than ever," said Seglem.

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The State Commission of Investigation is an independent New Jersey watchdog agency established in 1968 to investigate organized crime and corruption, waste of tax money and other abuses of the public trust. Copies of public reports are available at the Commission's offices or via its Web site at www.state.nj.us/sci.index.shtm