



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts  
Office of the Inspector General

GREGORY W. SULLIVAN  
INSPECTOR GENERAL

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His Excellency W. Mitt Romney  
Governor of Massachusetts  
State House, Room 360  
Boston, MA 02133

Re: Central Location for a List of Debarred Contractors

Dear Governor Romney:

I am writing to propose the creation of a freely accessible central bulletin where public agencies and municipalities can locate a consolidated list of suspended and debarred contractors.

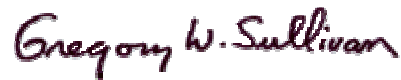
The Secretary of Administration and Finance (“Secretary of A&F”), the Commissioner of the Division of Capital Asset Management (“Commissioner of DCAM”), the Commissioner of the Department of Industrial Accidents, and the Attorney General all have authority to impose or remove suspensions and debarments. M.G.L. c. 29, §29F(b) currently mandates that the Secretary of A&F compile and publish a consolidated list of debarred contractors in both the *Goods and Services Bulletin* and the *Central Register*. However, Section 29F(b) only requires heads of executive offices established under Chapter 6A and the Commissioner of DCAM to notify the Secretary of A&F upon imposing or removing a debarment. The Attorney General, an elected official to a constitutional office, is not covered under the notification requirement of M.G.L. c. 29, §29F(b). This results in the publication of two separate lists of debarred contractors.

Presently, public agencies and cities and towns must check either DCAM’s website or the Central Register for a list of contractors debarred by the Commissioner of DCAM. And for a list of contractors debarred by the Attorney General, public agencies and cities and towns must either call the Attorney General’s office or continually check the *Central Register*. Although the *Central Register* contains both lists of debarred contractors, it is updated every two weeks and available by subscription only. At the very least, the two separate lists in the *Central Register* should be consolidated. A better approach is to put the Secretary of A&F in

charge of consolidating the two lists and then publishing it on its website so that public agencies and municipalities can review it without having to pay for a subscription to the *Central Register*.

It is the recommendation of this Office that all public offices with authority to debar contractors should update the Secretary of A&F upon imposing or removing a suspension or debarment. The Secretary of A&F should then be charged with compiling a consolidated list and publishing it in the *Goods and Services Bulletin*, the *Central Register*, as well as on its website.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Gregory W. Sullivan". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Gregory W. Sullivan  
Inspector General

Cc: Tom Reilly, Attorney General  
William Francis Galvin, Secretary of the Commonwealth  
David B. Perini, Commissioner of Division of Capital Asset Management  
John C. Chapman, Commissioner of Department of Industrial Accidents