

# **Mayor's Response**

Case # 21-0028-I

CITY OF BALTIMORE

BRANDON M. SCOTT, Mayor



OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

100 Holliday Street, Rm 250  
Baltimore, Maryland 21202

December 21, 2020

Ms. Isabel Mercedes Cumming  
Inspector General, Baltimore City  
100 North Holliday Street, Suite 635  
Baltimore, MD 21202

Dear Inspector General Cumming,

I am responding to a Management Alert (case number 21-0028-I) from your office regarding a towing operator, [REDACTED], on behalf of Mayor Brandon Scott.

In regard to the use of a vendor whose contract has expired, I have spoken with the Director of the Department of General Services (DGS) and it is my understanding that DGS has been working with the Bureau of Procurement (BOP) over the past several months to initiate the solicitation of a new contract. In the meantime, however, DGS made an operational decision to continue using the services of the current vendor to ensure the continuity of operations on behalf of City agencies. The City lacks the resources (equipment and personnel) to be able to perform all the towing services provided by contracted vendors and without these services not only would the operations of agencies such as Fire, Police, DPW and DOT be significantly hampered, the risk to equipment being damaged due to not being quickly retrieved from break-down locations also had to be weighed.

DGS and BOP have finalized the crafting of a new bid solicitation and that is anticipated to be advertised within the next few weeks. The scope of the solicitation has been revised to remedy issues identified over the course of the OIG's investigation and to better allow for the City's flexibility in selection of vendors and in the towing operations.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "D Ramos", with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Daniel Ramos  
Deputy Chief Administrative Officer  
Baltimore City