CITY OF BALTIMORE

BERNARD C. "JACK" YOUNG, Mayor

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

RUDOLPH S. CHOW, P.E., Director
200 N. Holliday Street
Baltimore, MD 21202

November 18, 2019

Ms. Isabel Mercedes Cumming, Inspector General
Office of the Inspector General
100 North Holliday Street, Suite 640
Baltimore, MD 21202

Dear Inspector General Cumming:

On October 16, 2019, I received a Final Report of Investigation regarding Office of Inspector General (OIG) case 19-0085-I, which pertained to allegations that a Department of Public Works (DPW) cashier allegedly embezzled cash payments from disposal fees paid by small haulers dumping waste at the Northwest Transfer Station. I thank you and your team for the report and the analysis provided.

As noted in your report, the allegation of embezzlement was substantiated. The employee in question has been charged with theft by the Baltimore City State's Attorney's Office. Additionally, the employee has been separated from City service for violating Civil Service Rules.

While actions are being taken against the employee who embezzled the cash, your report also noted appropriate surveillance was lacking at the Northwest Transfer Station and also recommended that accountability standards for the Small Hauler Program be reviewed. We concur with these findings and are currently working with a vendor to develop a scope of work for surveillance equipment for the Northwest Transfer Station. Additionally, as noted in a separate email pertaining to another investigation of the Northwest Transfer Station, the Bureau of Solid Waste is developing new Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) to address internal control deficiencies. These SOPs will describe the processes and procedures for cashiers and other personnel at the Northwest Transfer Station to ensure that all financial transactions are properly accounted for and safeguarded.

Should you have any additional questions or would like any clarification, do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Matthew W. Garbark
Deputy Director