

**OFFICE OF THE INSPECTOR GENERAL**  
**CITY OF BALTIMORE**



**Isabel Mercedes Cumming**  
**Inspector General**

**Investigative**  
**Report Synopsis**

**OIG Case # 19-0095-I**

**Issued: April 8, 2020**



OFFICE OF THE INSPECTOR GENERAL  
Isabel Mercedes Cumming, Inspector General  
City Hall, Suite 635  
100 N. Holliday Street  
Baltimore, MD 21202



April 8, 2020

Dear Citizens of Baltimore City,

The Office of the Inspector General (OIG) conducted an investigation regarding theft of City property by an employee. The complaint alleged the employee conspired with a former City employee to sell the City property for financial gain.

The mission of the OIG is to promote accountability, efficiency, and integrity in City government, as well as the investigation of complaints of fraud, financial waste, and abuse in City government.

The OIG received a complaint about stolen equipment from a City facility located at 6400 Pulaski Highway. During the course of its investigation, the OIG determined that Target 1, a laborer with the Department of Transportation (DOT), and Target 2, a former employee of both DOT and the Department of General Services (DGS), were involved in two equipment thefts.

Due to the nature of this type of case, OIG contacted the Regional Auto Theft Task Force (RATT) and learned a detective was already assigned to investigate a similar theft in the same facility. OIG partnered with RATT. OIG conducted internal interviews, reviewed documents and footage, and testified at grievance hearing for Target 1. At the conclusion of the investigation, the OIG provided all information obtained to the detective.

On March 23, 2019, a Bobcat skid-steer loader and grapple bucket, valued at \$33,554.47, were stolen from the back of the DGS shop located at 6400 Pulaski Highway. DGS surveillance video showed a small vehicle entering the facility shortly before the theft and following the stolen equipment as it was driven off of the City lot. The vehicle registration identified the DOT laborer, Target 1, as the owner of the vehicle. Using its GPS tracking device, law enforcement was able to track the location of the Bobcat to an alley storage unit in the 2700 block of Beryl Avenue. The Bobcat was recovered; however, it was missing its grapple bucket, valued at \$3,600.

The detective spoke with the renter of the storage unit on Beryl Avenue from which the Bobcat was recovered. The renter advised he had purchased the Bobcat for \$6,000 from Target 2 and he did so with the understanding that he was buying equipment which the City previously auctioned. The renter provided the Detective with a cellphone number for Target 2. The Detective ran the number through Baltimore County records and found that it was the contact number associated with Target 2. After obtaining and reviewing the most recent photo identification of Target 2, along with the surveillance video of the Bobcat theft, the Detective identified Target 2 as the individual who drove the Bobcat off the City lot. Target 2 was previously employed by DOT and then DGS. He was terminated from City service on May 29, 2018.

**REPORT FRAUD, WASTE AND ABUSE**

**HOTLINE:** 443-984-3476/800-417-0430 **EMAIL:** [OIG@BALTIMORECITY.GOV](mailto:OIG@BALTIMORECITY.GOV) **WEBSITE:** [OIG.BALTIMORECITY.GOV](http://OIG.BALTIMORECITY.GOV)

On July 13, 2019, a 2014 Toro Z-Master 5000 riding lawnmower, valued at \$1,293.33, was stolen from the front of the same facility. Target 1 was identified as the driver of City truck number 2948, which transported his accomplice to the mower, and followed the stolen mower as it was driven off the City lot. In both of these incidents, Target 1 is believed to have assisted Target 2 in physically removing the equipment from City property with the express purpose of facilitating the theft.

The Detective filed criminal charges against Target 1 and Target 2 and both cases are with the Baltimore City States Attorney's Office. After the OIG released its findings in this investigation, Target 1 was terminated from City employment in December 2019. Target 1 subsequently filed a grievance of his termination to the Office of the Labor Commissioner. A hearing was held in February 2020 and upheld the termination.

Sincerely,



Isabel Mercedes Cumming, Inspector General  
Office of the Inspector General

Cc: Hon. Bernard C. "Jack" Young, Mayor of Baltimore City  
Hon. Brandon Scott, President, City Council  
Honorable Members of the Baltimore City Council  
Hon. Dana P. Moore, Acting City Solicitor  
Hon. Joan M. Pratt, Baltimore City Comptroller

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