

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



**Isabel Mercedes Cumming
Inspector General**

**Investigative Report
Synopsis**

OIG Case # 20-0030-I

Issued: April 1, 2020



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



April 1, 2020

Dear Citizens of Baltimore City,

The Office of the Inspector General (OIG) conducted an investigation into the Department of Public Works' Water and Waste Water Bureau (W&WW), after receiving a complaint alleging a Washington Boulevard employee (employee 1) violated several Baltimore City and DPW policies while on duty from November 2019 to December 2019. The allegations included theft of time, falsifying time sheets and unauthorized use of a motor vehicle.

The mission of the OIG is to promote accountability, efficiency, and integrity, as well as the investigation of complaints of fraud, financial waste, and abuse in City government. The OIG investigation confirmed DPW management issued discipline to the employee on November 26, 2019, for transporting her minor child in a City vehicle and going to several locations in a City vehicle to conduct personal business. The employee's assigned partner (employee 2) was also disciplined for conducting personal business on City time and being at locations without authorization. While the OIG did not investigate the allegations, the employees were previously disciplined for, the OIG did review the employee's actions for potential theft of time prior to and after the November 26, 2019 discipline.

The OIG substantiated the claim that employee 1 submitted time sheets and overtime slips for times she claimed to be working for the City when she did not. The OIG also investigated the actions of her partner, employee 2 considering they utilize the same City vehicle. The OIG was able to confirm employee 2 was not in the vehicle or in the field with employee 1 when she took the City vehicle to conduct personal business.

The OIG found employee 1 regularly used the City vehicle for personal use, without informing management. The OIG determined employee 1 continued the same unauthorized behaviors after being informed of pending discipline, on November 26, 2019.¹ The OIG determined on several occasions, from November 19, 2019 through December 31, 2019, the City vehicle assigned to the employees in question was either stationary at employee 1's private residence or the residence of her family members for two to five hours.

The OIG also identified contributing factors that created an environment for employee 1 to submit overtime for hours not worked. A lack of consistency in overtime approval procedures and inadequate management oversight allowed for these employees to submit inaccurate information. According to DPW, Employee 1 is no longer employed by the City of Baltimore.

Sincerely,

Isabel Mercedes Cumming, Inspector General
Office of the Inspector General

Cc: Hon. Bernard C. "Jack" Young, Mayor of Baltimore City
Kimberly Morton, Mayor's Chief of Staff
Hon. Dana P. Moore, Acting City Solicitor
Brandon Scott, President City Council
Honorable Members of the City Council
Matthew Garbark, Acting Director DPW

¹ Employee 1 and Employee 2 were both informed of disciplinary actions on November 26, 2019, however the discipline was not imposed until December 2, 2019.

REPORT FRAUD, WASTE AND ABUSE

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