

OFFICE OF THE INSPECTOR GENERAL
CITY OF BALTIMORE



Isabel Mercedes Cumming
Inspector General

Investigative
Report Synopsis

OIG Case # 21-0037-I

Issued: May 4, 2022



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



May 4, 2022

Dear Citizens of Baltimore City,

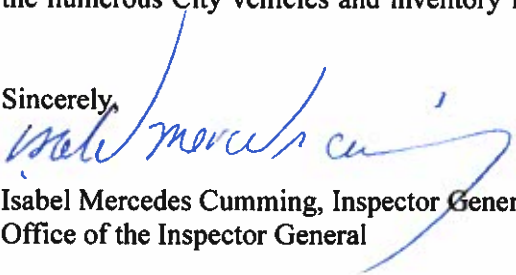
The Mission of the Office of the Inspector General (OIG) is to promote accountability, efficiency, and integrity in City government, as well as to investigate complaints of fraud, financial waste, and abuse. The OIG began an investigation in February 2021 after receiving a complaint alleging theft of City property by a Department of Transportation (DOT) supervisor (Supervisor) and employees. The complaint alleged the DOT Supervisor paid DOT employees to complete home improvement work to the Supervisor's personal residence with City-owned property. Additionally, the complaint alleged that DOT employees used City-owned property to complete side projects outside of their City employment.

During the OIG interview, the DOT Supervisor acknowledge paying DOT employees for completing various home improvement work on the DOT Supervisor's properties, but City-owned property was not utilized. The OIG did not find any evidence to support the allegation that City-owned property was used for personal use by the DOT Supervisor. The investigation did uncover four instances between May 2021 and July 2021 when a DOT vehicle was located in the approximate area of the DOT Supervisor's properties during City work hours. Two of the four instances showed a DOT vehicle at one of the DOT Supervisor's properties that is located outside of the City. However, the DOT Supervisor claimed to have no knowledge as to why the vehicle was located near the properties. Furthermore, a driver was not documented on the DOT vehicle sign-out logs for three of the four instances. Regarding the one instance with a documented driver, the DOT employee driving the DOT vehicle stated they did not recall why it was parked near the DOT Supervisor's property.

The OIG identified several DOT employees who performed side projects outside of City work hours but did not substantiate the use of City property in these DOT employees' side projects. Nonetheless, the DOT Supervisor acknowledged DOT employees within their division have previously signed out City tools and removed scrap materials for personal use; however, the DOT Supervisor stated these practices are no longer occurring. The City's Administrative Manual does not prohibit the personal use of City hand and power tools. Additionally, the OIG found the DOT Supervisor has implemented stronger inventory control measures by securing inventory in locked areas.

Lastly, the OIG determined the security camera system at the identified DOT location was not functioning, which limited the investigation. The OIG recommends DOT implement a security camera system to capture any potential adverse events, such as internal or external theft, given the numerous City vehicles and inventory located at the DOT facility.

Sincerely,


Isabel Mercedes Cumming, Inspector General
Office of the Inspector General

Cc: Hon. Brandon M. Scott, Mayor of Baltimore City
Hon. Nick Mosby, President, City Council
Hon. Bill Henry, Baltimore City Comptroller
Honorable Members of the Baltimore City Council
Hon. Jim Shea, City Solicitor

REPORT FRAUD, WASTE AND ABUSE

HOTLINE: 443-984-3476/800-417-0430 EMAIL: OIG@BALTIMORECITY.GOV WEBSITE: OIG.BALTIMORECITY.GOV

This public synopsis is only a summary of a more comprehensive report of investigation submitted to the appropriate City management official

**Department of Transportation
Deputy of Administration Response**

Case # 21-0037-I

CITY OF BALTIMORE
Brandon M. Scott, Mayor
100 N. Holliday Street
Baltimore, Maryland 21202



DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
Steve Sharkey, Director
417 E. Fayette Street, 5th Floor
Baltimore, Maryland 21202

Date: April 13, 2022

TO: Isabel Mercedes Cumming
Inspector General
Office of the Inspector General
City Hall, Suite 635
100 N. Holiday Street
Baltimore, MD 21202

RE: OIG Case No. 21-0037- I [REDACTED]

Dear Ms. Cumming,

The Department of Transportation has received and reviewed the above referenced OIG Report dated March 24, 2022, regarding a complaint involving [REDACTED] and other [REDACTED] employees, alleging improper use of City-owned inventory and City vehicles.

While the Department could not substantiate the use of City-owned inventory for personnel use the [REDACTED] Division intends to to implement measures to ensure that 'scrap' lumber is not retrieved for personal use. Recycled lumber; that is, lumber that can be reused shall be secured. Scrap lumber shall be secured then accounted for via Property Disposal Report and DPW receipt. DPW shall retrieve secured scrap lumber; thereby, minimizing/eliminating potential for [REDACTED] staff to retrieve from dumpster.

Regarding the misuse of City owned vehicles, during the Fall of 2020 the [REDACTED] Division issued a Standard Operating Procedure, which was signed and acknowledged by all drivers. The [REDACTED] Division was able to determine there was a misuse of a City vehicle and discipline will be issued to both the employee and [REDACTED] supervisor.

Additionally, the [REDACTED] Division is preparing to have both the internal and external cameras repaired or replaced.

We thank you for bringing this matter to our attention and if additional information is needed please feel free to contact me.

Respectfully,

Laetitia Griffin

Laetitia Griffin
Deputy of Administration
Department of Transportation

Cc: Steve Sharkey
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]