

OFFICE OF THE INSPECTOR GENERAL CITY OF BALTIMORE

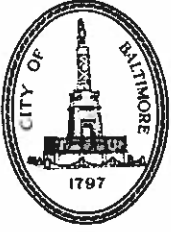


Isabel Mercedes Cumming
Inspector General

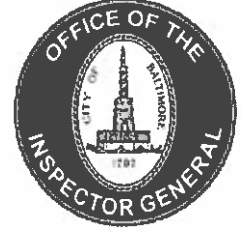
Investigative Report Synopsis

OIG Case # 23-0021-I

Issued: July 11, 2023



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



July 11, 2023

Dear Citizens of Baltimore City,

The Baltimore City Office of the Inspector General (OIG) received a complaint alleging time fraud, preferential treatment by management, and inequitable distribution of overtime assignments within the City of Baltimore's (City) Department of Transportation (DOT). Specifically, the complaint alleged a Department of Transportation (DOT) employee (DOT Employee 1) committed time fraud by spending extended periods in the Horseshoe Casino (Casino) during their assigned work schedules. The complainant also claimed that DOT management engaged in time fraud, preferential treatment, and did not allocate overtime assignments equitably. This public synopsis had to be shortened considerably as a result of personnel privacy restrictions.

DOT Employee 1

The OIG interviewed DOT Employee 1 and several other DOT employees and supervisors about the allegations of time fraud by DOT Employee 1. Multiple DOT employees stated that DOT Employee 1 was away from their assigned location and City vehicle for approximately one hour after entering the Casino on November 12, 2022. Further, one witness said that after DOT Employee 1 exited the Casino and returned to their City vehicle, DOT Employee 1 showed them a photo on their cellphone of a Casino cashout voucher for \$1,092.85.

The OIG interviewed DOT Employee 1, who confirmed that on November 12, 2022, they were assigned overtime duty near the Casino. During their interview, DOT Employee 1 admitted they had entered the Casino twice, but claimed only to use the restroom and purchase food. However, DOT Employee 1 later acknowledged they had spent time with a family member in the Casino but denied gambling and being inside for an extended period of time. According to DOT Employee 1, the winning voucher belonged to a family member.

The OIG attempted to verify the time spent by DOT Employee 1 in the Casino. The OIG subpoenaed the Casino for records of video footage and transactions involving DOT Employee 1 on November 12, 2022. However, the Casino informed the OIG that the video footage for the requested date was outside of their retention period, and the Casino could not determine to who the cashout voucher was issued.

Alleged Time Fraud and Preferential Treatment by Management

The OIG interviewed several DOT employees and supervisors about the allegations of time fraud or preferential treatment by DOT management. The OIG found no evidence or statements corroborating any of the allegations received. However, the OIG learned from a DOT supervisor that supervisors sometimes withhold overtime from DOT employees at a partner agency's request due to work performance issues. The OIG found the equalization charts for overtime do not record a denial reason for these instances.

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

OIG Findings

The OIG investigation substantiates part of the allegation that DOT Employee 1 had spent time in the Casino, while working during their overtime assignment. Evidence obtained by the OIG indicates that DOT Employee 1 spent time inside the Casino, away from their assigned vehicle and duty location. Further, by their admission, DOT Employee 1 interacted with a family member during their time in the Casino.

It is unknown if DOT Employee 1 gambled while in the casino. The OIG was unable to obtain video evidence of the time spent in the Casino by DOT Employee 1 as it was outside of the retention period. The photo of the cashout voucher was posted to the family member's social media page.

The OIG investigation did not support the allegations of time fraud or preferential treatment by management. The OIG recommends amending equalization charts to identify when an employee has declined overtime or was denied with a reason for the denial.

Sincerely,



Isabel Mercedes Cumming, 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. Ebony Thompson, Acting City Solicitor