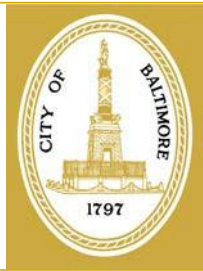


DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

RESPONSE

CASE # 24-0057-I

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



DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
Veobia Akilo, Interim Director
417 E. Fayette Street, 5th Floor
Baltimore, Maryland 21202

December 22, 2024

Baltimore City Office of the Inspector General
100 N. Holliday Street, Suite 635
Baltimore, MD 21202

RE: OIG CASE NO. 24-0057_I Damaged Monuments

Dear Inspector General Cumming:

This letter serves as the official response from the Baltimore City Department of Transportation (BCDOT) regarding the findings outlined in your Management Alert, dated December 6, 2024, regarding the security issues at the [REDACTED] Yard and the associated monument damage.

BCDOT has carefully reviewed your report and acknowledges the security concerns identified at the [REDACTED] Yard. We have confirmed the findings related to the vandalism that occurred between August 2017 and September 2022, and the subsequent discovery of the damage on September 9, 2022. We also note the delay in filing the police report on March 21, 2023, and the concerns raised regarding compliance with AM-505-1-1 Procedures for Property Crimes.

In response to your recommendations, we have taken the following actions to address the issues:

1. Perimeter Security: The [REDACTED] Yard has been secured with a locked fence, as shown in the attached photographs. In addition, the yard's perimeter will be closely monitored. We are working to ensure there are no gaps or potential access points for trespassing exist, we will have this completed by the end of the 1st quarter of this calendar year.

2. Review of AM-505-1-1 Procedures: BCDOT will take proactive steps to ensure that all managers and relevant personnel are thoroughly briefed on the AM-505-1-1 Procedures for Property Crimes. This includes ensuring that appropriate protocols are followed in reporting damages and property crimes in the future. This briefing will be conducted by DOT's HR department by the end of the 1st quarter of this calendar year.

3. Future Monument and Property Damage Reporting: We fully acknowledge the importance of timely reporting and addressing any incidents involving City-owned monuments, statues, or artwork. As a result, we are reviewing our internal reporting procedures to ensure compliance with the relevant guidelines.

We genuinely appreciate your diligence in raising this matter with us. If you have any questions or need additional information, please don't hesitate to contact me at 410-396-6802 or my Deputy Director of Administration, Laetitia Gardener, she can be reached at Laetitia.gardener@baltimorecity.gov. Your ongoing support is greatly valued, and we remain committed to upholding the highest standard of compliance with the City's policies and procedures.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Veobia Akilo". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name being the most prominent.

Veobia Akilo
Interim Director

cc Brandon M. Scott, Mayor
Ebony M. Thompson, City Solicitor
Faith Leach, Chief Administrative Officer
Simone C. Johnson, Deputy City Administrator
Marvin James, Chief of Staff, Office of the Mayor
Chris Ryer, Director Department of Planning
Laetitia Gardener, Deputy Director of Administration
Tavon Braxton, Deputy Director of Operations
Shonkaye Stanley, Deputy Chief of Risk Management