



Richmond Office of the City Auditor

Office of the Inspector General

Fighting government waste, fraud and abuse

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Richmond City Auditor/Inspector General

March 7, 2014

Mr. James Jackson, Director of Public Works

The Office of the Inspector General (OIG) has completed an investigation in the Department of Public Works (DPW) regarding an employee's abuse of time and resources. This letter informs you of the results of the investigation.

Complaint

The OIG received a complaint alleging a City of Richmond dump truck and equipment were being used in Henrico County.

Legal Requirements

In accordance with the Code of Virginia, §15.2-2511.2, the City Auditor is required to investigate all allegations of fraud, waste and abuse. Also, the City Code section 2-231 requires the Office of the Inspector General to conduct investigations of alleged wrongdoing.

Background

The Investigator was able to determine that a DPW employee lives in the neighborhood where the complaint was alleged. The employee was identified as a Lead Mason for DPW.

Findings

The investigation revealed that the subject employee was making numerous visits to his residence in Henrico County between July 2013 and January 2014. During the interview the subject employee admitted the following:

The employee went to the City facility on the weekend when the gate was open and drove the City vehicle with an attached bobcat to his home in Henrico. He used the bobcat to remove a tree stump at his residence. He also admitted to going home during work hours. During the interview, the employee also stated that he was informed by his supervisor not to take the vehicle to his residence anymore because someone had called the vehicle in. The subject employee told the supervisor he would stop taking the vehicle home.

During the interview with the subject employee's supervisor, he stated that he had heard a rumor at the facility that the subject employee was taking a City vehicle home. The supervisor spoke to the subject employee saying that he was not accusing him of taking the vehicle home, but that if he was, he should stop. Furthermore, the supervisor made visits to the subject employee's home during work hours to see if the subject employee was going home with the City vehicle. During the supervisor's visits, he did not observe a City vehicle or the subject employee at his residence.

Below are the dates, times, and duration the subject employee visited his Henrico County residence:

Date	Times	Duration
July 3, 2013	12:35 pm – 2:23 pm	1 hour, 48 minutes
July 8, 2013	12:11 pm – 12:45 pm	34 minutes
August 5, 2013	12:01 pm – 12:07 pm	6 minutes
August 5, 2013	12:21 pm – 12:57 pm	36 minutes
August 6, 2013	11:51 am – 12:35 pm	44 minutes
August 9, 2013	1:34 pm – 2:13 pm	39 minutes
August 14, 2013	1:51 pm – 2:40 pm	49 minutes
August 29, 2013	12:24 pm – 2:12 pm	1 hour, 48 minutes
August 30, 2013	11:34 am – 1:11 pm	1 hour, 37 minutes
September 5, 2013	1:15 pm – 2:33 pm	1 hour, 18 minutes
October 9, 2013	12:02 pm – 2:00 pm	1 hour, 58 minutes
October 10, 2013	10:05 am – 12:00 pm	1 hour, 55 minutes
October 22, 2013	1:21 pm – 2:47 pm	1 hour, 26 minutes
November 5, 2013	1:51 pm – 2:37 pm	46 minutes
TOTAL:		16 hours, 4 minutes

Conclusion

The OIG finds the allegation to be substantiated. The subject employee admitted to visiting his residence and using City equipment in Henrico County. It is recommended that appropriate disciplinary action needs to be taken against the subject employee for not complying with City policies and abusing City resources for personal benefit.

If you have any questions, please contact me at extension 5640.

Sincerely,

Umesh Dalal

Umesh Dalal, CPA, CIA, CIG
City Auditor/Inspector General

c: Byron Marshall, Chief Administrative Officer