



Richmond Office of the City Auditor

Office of the Inspector General

Fighting government waste, fraud and abuse

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

March 4, 2015

Mr. Robert Steidel, Director
Department of Public Utilities

The Office of the Inspector General (OIG) has completed an investigation in the Department of Public Utilities (DPU) regarding an employee's misuse of City Vehicle. This letter includes the results of the investigation.

Complaint

The OIG received a complaint alleging a City of Richmond employee drives a City vehicle and takes it home during work hours. The complaint also provided the vehicle number and home address.

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 the subject was a DPU employee. The employee was identified as a Gas & Water Service Technician Supervisor, who resides in the City.

Findings

The investigation revealed that the subject employee made 13 visits to his residence between December 1, 2014 and January 26, 2015. During the interview the subject employee admitted the following:

The subject employee claimed that permission was granted by the supervisor to take the vehicle home during inclement weather, however, the supervisor denied this claim. The subject employee acknowledged taking the vehicle home without permission.

Below are the dates and times the subject employee visited his residence beyond 30 minutes:

Date	Times	Duration
December 14, 2014	1:22 pm – 2:28 pm	1 hour, 6 minutes
December 30, 2014	1:10 pm – 2:02 pm	52 minutes
January 1, 2015	*4:24 pm – 9:38 pm	5 hour, 14 minutes
January 26, 2015	*6:11 pm – 8:10 pm	1 hour, 59 minutes

*Overtime

Conclusion

The OIG finds the allegation to be substantiated. The OIG recommends that the Department of Public Utilities take appropriate disciplinary action against the subject employee in accordance with the City policies.

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

Sincerely,

Umesh Dalal

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City Auditor/Inspector General

cc: Christopher Beschler, Interim Chief Administrative Officer
James Jackson, Interim DCAO, Operations
Ricky Hicks, Operations Manager, DPU