

Baltimore City Fire Department Chief Response

Case # 21-0023-I

CITY OF BALTIMORE

Brandon M. Scott
Mayor



FIRE DEPARTMENT

Niles Ford, PhD, Chief
401 E. Fayette Street
Baltimore, Maryland 21202

July 29, 2021

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

Dear Madame Inspector General:

Thank you for your Report of Investigation concerning the investigation into potential financial waste by the Baltimore City Fire Department (BCFD or the Department) related to City-owned take-home vehicles. This letter constitutes BCFD's official response to that Report.

BCFD's practice is to conduct an annual (if not more frequent) comprehensive review of the Department's take-home vehicle distribution and related policy. This analysis always is conducted with an eye towards reducing the number of take-home vehicle assignments whenever operationally feasible, while simultaneously considering the demands for efficient and effective performance of BCFD's emergency operational response. For instance, in FY 20, BCFD's comprehensive review resulted in the reduction of the number of take-home vehicles by ten (10).

Based on the results of the OIG's Report of Investigation, BCFD intends to again closely review the current take-home vehicle distribution and related policy to make adjustments as possible, while balancing the need to maintain the highest level of emergency response. We appreciate your review and investigative findings, as we continuously strive to provide the very best service to the citizens and visitors of Baltimore, while taking into account the need to avoid potential financial waste.

Please do not hesitate to contact me should you have any follow up questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Niles R. Ford".

Niles R. Ford, PhD
Chief of the Fire Department

Cc: Mayor Brandon Scott
Chief Administrative Officer Christopher Shorter
Chief of Staff Michael Huber
City Solicitor James Shea