

**OFFICE OF THE INSPECTOR GENERAL
CITY OF BALTIMORE**



**Isabel Mercedes Cumming
Inspector General**

**Investigative
Report Synopsis**

OIG Case # 20-0017-I

Issued: January 31, 2020



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



January 31, 2020

Dear Citizens of Baltimore City,

The Office of the Inspector General (OIG) conducted an investigation regarding the Bureau of Procurement (BOP) attempting to circumvent the City's bidding process. The complaint alleged that an employee from the Department of Transportation (DOT) requested the City Purchasing Agent add a towing company (Vendor) to the existing Citywide Police Requested Towing Services contract (Tow Contract). The complaint also alleged the City Purchasing Agent approved to add Vendor to the contract even though the proposed addition did not go through the Tow Contract outlined procedures.

The mission of the OIG is to promote accountability, efficiency, and integrity, as well as the investigation of complaints of fraud, financial waste, and abuse in City government. The investigation discovered that a DOT employee wrote a memo to the City Purchasing Agent concerning Tow Contract. In the memo, the DOT employee stated Vendor contacted them directly requesting to be added to Tow Contract in place of a company that was removed. The OIG investigation discovered BOP began the process to add Vendor but failed to create a formal change order that would acknowledge the selection of Vendor and notify the existing vendors of a new modification to Tow Contract.

In addition, the OIG learned five tow companies continued performing towing services for Tow Contract after BOP discovered Tow Contract expired on August 31, 2019. The City Purchasing Agent waited several weeks to request a contract extension resulting in five tow companies working for the City without pay. The investigation discovered the City Purchasing Agent delayed requesting the Board of Estimates (BOE) for an extension in an attempt to add Vendor to Tow Contract. Ultimately, Vendor was not added to the Tow Contract extension because Vendor compliance was still being reviewed by the Minority and Women's Business Opportunity Office. On October 23, 2019, the BOE approved the contract extension until March 31, 2020 without Vendor.

The response from the Honorable Mayor Bernard C. "Jack" Young is attached.

Sincerely,

Isabel Mercedes Cumming, Inspector General
Office of the Inspector General

Cc: Hon. Bernard C. "Jack" Young, Mayor of Baltimore City Hon.
Brandon Scott, President, City Council
Hon. Joan M. Pratt, Baltimore City Comptroller
Honorable Members of the Baltimore City Council
Hon. Andre M. Davis, City Solicitor

REPORT FRAUD, WASTE AND ABUSE

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