
**Minority and Women's Business
Opportunity Office**


and

Department of General Services

Response

Case # 22-0002-I

MEMORANDUM

TO:	Isabel Mercedes Cumming Inspector General Office of the Inspector General 100 N. Holliday St., Suite 635 Baltimore, MD 21202	
FROM:	Christopher R. Lundy, Chief MWBOO Attila Berke, Director DGS	
SUBJECT:	Report of Investigation OIG Case: 22-0002-I	
Date:	January 18, 2023	

Dear Inspector General Cumming:

On January 5, 2023 via letter you provided Office of the Inspector General (OIG) Report of Investigation (ROI) Case #:22-0002-I. This memorandum serves as the joint response of the Minority and Women's Business Opportunity Office (MWBOO) and the Department of General Services (DGS).

MWBOO and DGS have an excellent partnership and meet regularly. DGS provided MWBOO with all of the information that was requested during the course of the investigation. When MWBOO contacted [REDACTED] via letter regarding proof of subcontractor payment for the contract, [REDACTED], they were unresponsive. MWBOO investigated this contract to the maximum extent possible then referred this matter to the OIG to exercise their subpoena powers. MWBOO and DGS continued to work in collaboration with the OIG throughout their investigation.

This is an excellent example of partnership and collaboration between MWBOO, DGS, and the OIG. MWBOO and DGS worked with OIG by providing documents and personnel for interviews. We agree that the ROI is detailed, well supported by documentary evidence, and reaches logical conclusions based upon the evidence. It is apparent that [REDACTED] did not submit accurate documentation to MWBOO and DGS in association with the performance of this City contract.

MWBOO will be increasing compliance efforts via digital goal progress tracking in B2G. This upcoming process improvement will require prime contractors to enter all payments to M/WBE subcontractors into the system. M/WBE subcontractors will further be required to verify all payments entered by the prime for the contract. MWBOO will additionally seek documentation of all alleged payments to M/WBE subcontractors during the compliance review

process for verification. This will identify payments that lack documentary evidence and enable MWBOO, DGS, and other agencies to act sooner to identify fraudulent submissions. Furthermore, the MWBOO waiver process has been improved since the facts at issue in ROI. MWBOO is highly scrutinizing all waiver requests to determine the payment status of all M/WBEs on the contract, meeting and discussing the issue with the agency, and contacting the M/WBE subcontractors to ensure that no applicable M/WBE contract goal is waived without understanding and considering the totality of the circumstances. MWBOO is working in close partnership with DGS and the other agencies to ensure that our compliance and contract monitoring efforts are increased.

MWBOO and DGS will be consulting with the Law Department in light of the findings of the report. We thank IG Cumming and her investigative team for their partnership and diligence in identifying those who seek to defraud the taxpayers of Baltimore City.

Regards,



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CC:

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City Solicitor Ebony Thompson

Deputy City Administrator Simone Johnson
