

Department of Public Works

Response

Case # 25-0004-I

CITY OF BALTIMORE

BRANDON M. SCOTT, Mayor



DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

Khalil Zaied, Director
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200 N. Holliday Street
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October 23, 2024

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

RE: DPW Response to OIG Case # 25-0004-I, dated 10/15/2024

Inspector General Cumming:

This correspondence will serve as the Department of Public Work's official management response to the Office of the Inspector General (OIG) 5Report 25-0004-I, dated October 15, 2024 (the "Referral"). The Referral references discrepancies in the information provided by the Department of Public Works (DPW) for heat-related illnesses. Specifically, the report notes that ten (10) employees who had reported suffering from a heat-related illness were not included on a report from DPW. I have researched the issues described and am happy to respond to the report's findings.

Evidently, when DPW staff obtained the heat-related illness report from Sedgwick, they noted and omitted instances they believed were first described as heat-related but, upon evaluation, were not. Specifically, they used the classification in columns K and L in the report to determine whether an illness was heat-related. If that was not explicitly stated on the report, it was omitted as staff believed that was the official determination by Mercy Hospital as to the cause of the illness.

I want to be clear that this should not have occurred. We should have provided the information as received from Sedgwick without omission. If there were any questions as to whether something should or should not have been included, we should have reached out to you and your team proactively for clarification.

I have discussed this matter with all involved and do not believe there was an attempt to obstruct or obfuscate. I believe the staff wanted to provide the most accurate information and thought the information from Sedgwick was inaccurate. All involved have been instructed that the report should have been submitted without omission and that, in the future, extra care should be taken to ensure we are fully responsive to requests for information.

Further, noting your concerns about inaccurate information being provided to MOSH, I have asked for all information that was sent. At this point, MOSH did not ask DPW for this type of report or information. Instead, they requested copies of OSHA 300 forms, which have been provided.

I want to thank you and your staff for your diligence on these issues as we work to strengthen accountability, transparency, and standard operating procedures.

Please do not hesitate to contact me with any further concerns or require additional information.

Best Regards,

Khalil Zaied

Khalil Zaied
Director