


F R O M	Name & Title	Isabel Mercedes Cumming Inspector General	OFFICE OF THE INSPECTOR GENERAL REFERRAL	
	Agency Name & Address	Office of the Inspector General 100 N. Holliday Street, Suite 635 Baltimore, MD 21202		
	Subject:	OIG Case # 24-0784-C		

TO: Latoya Curtis, Chief of Staff
Department of Public Works
Abel Wolman Municipal Building
200 Holliday Steet, Baltimore MD 21202

Date: June 20, 2024

Subject: Employee Safety Referral

The Office of the Inspector General (OIG) received a complaint alleging that DPW does not provide adequate water, ice, and fans to DPW employees specifically those who working on routes. According to the complainant, the ice machines at the DPW Cherry Hill (Cherry Hill) yard at 701 Reedbird Avenue, Baltimore, MD 21225, have been inoperable for over one year, and employees must purchase bags of ice each day.

Upon conducting a site visit to the Cherry Hill yard, the OIG observed an inoperable ice machine located in the employee breakroom. According to a DPW employee, the ice machine located in the office breakroom has been broken since summer 2023. The OIG observed that the employee locker room did not have air conditioning or fans, which witnesses also stated.

The OIG conducted a site visit to a recycling route with employees from the Cherry Hill yard. The employees stated they had not been provided any water, ice, or Gatorade at the start of their shift. The OIG noted the outside temperature at the time was 80 degrees, with a high of 90 degrees anticipated later in the day. The employees said the trash truck had no air conditioning and no lights on the dashboard to show mechanical errors.

The Memorandum of Understanding between the City of Baltimore and the Local 44 states that the employer shall provide to all members of the Union's bargaining unit a safe and healthful workplace.

This matter is referred to you as the appropriate management official to take whatever action you deem necessary. Please respond in writing by July 5, 2024, indicating your actions to address this complaint. Should you have any questions or concerns or need further assistance from the OIG, I can be reached via telephone at 443-800-3854 or email Deputy Inspector General Matt Neil at matthew.neil@baltimorecity.gov.