

OFFICE OF THE INSPECTOR GENERAL
CITY OF BALTIMORE



Isabel Mercedes Cumming
Inspector General

Investigative
Report Synopsis

OIG Case # 23-0007-I

Issued: May 23, 2023



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



May 23, 2023

Dear Citizens of Baltimore City,

The mission of the Office of the Inspector General (OIG) is to promote accountability, efficiency, and integrity in City government, as well as to investigate complaints of fraud, financial waste, and abuse.

The OIG received a complaint involving a Bureau of Accounting and Payrolls Services (BAPS) employee (BAPS Employee) in August 2022. While other allegations were investigated, this public synopsis will outline only one issue, related to the BAPS Employee's reported educational history.

BAPS BACKGROUND

BAPS is a Department of Finance (DOF) division managing the accounting and payroll operations for the City, including accounts payable, payroll, disbursements, accounts receivable, billing, and revenue control. BAPS staff annually process over one million payments to employees and retirees, totaling approximately \$900 million.

INVESTIGATION

The BAPS Employee began working for the City in June 2021 in a position that required a college degree. The BAPS Employee later applied for two promotional positions, including a managerial position which required a master's degree. On their initial and subsequent applications, the BAPS Employee listed a bachelor's degree from a college in the Baltimore metropolitan area (Local College). On these applications, the BAPS Employee certified that the statement regarding the degree is true, and any false or incomplete answer may be grounds for dismissal after beginning employment.

After applying for the managerial position, the BAPS Employee requested a BAPS Chief (BAPS Chief) and a DOF Human Resources Business Partner accept an updated resume that now included a master's degree from the Local College. The BAPS Employee also included transcripts and a photo of the diploma for the master's degree, which they alleged to have achieved in May 2001.

During their OIG interview, a BAPS Chief stated the BAPS Employee did not have their master's degree when they began working for the City. The BAPS Chief explained that the BAPS Employee said they were previously enrolled in a master's program but had stopped taking classes. According to the BAPS Chief, the BAPS Employee told them that when they later contacted the Local College, the registrar at the Local College informed them that they did graduate, but the degree was never mailed. The BAPS Employee explained to the BAPS Chief that they now had a diploma for the master's degree.

REPORT FRAUD, WASTE AND ABUSE

HOTLINE: 443-984-3476/800-417-0430 EMAIL: OIG@BALTIMORECITY.GOV WEBSITE: OIG.BALTIMORECITY.GOV

This public synopsis is only a summary of a more comprehensive report of investigation submitted to the appropriate City management official

The OIG subpoenaed the Local College to verify the BAPS Employee's master's and bachelor's degrees. The Local College responded that the BAPS Employee never completed a single semester at the Local College, and it had no available transcripts for them.

Based on the Local College's response and the errors on the alleged transcripts, the BAPS Employee's claims of holding two degrees from the Local College were proven false. Moreover, the BAPS Employee misrepresented their education history on City job applications. The BAPS employee is no longer employed with the City.

The OIG recommended DOF coordinate with DHR to ensure education verification checks are completed and appropriately reviewed as part of the hiring process for financial positions with access to sensitive information.

Sincerely,



Isabel Mercedes Cumming
Inspector General

CC: Hon. Brandon M. Scott, Mayor of Baltimore City
Hon. Nick Mosby, Baltimore City Council President
Hon. Bill Henry, Baltimore City Comptroller
Honorable Members of the Baltimore City Council
Hon. Ebony Thompson, Acting Baltimore City Solicitor

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Department of Finance

Response

Case # 23-0007-I

CITY OF BALTIMORE

BRANDON M. SCOTT, Mayor



DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE

MICHAEL MOISEYEV
DIRECTOR

100 N. Holliday Street
Room 454, City Hall
Baltimore, Maryland 21202

October 17, 2022

Attn: Isabel Mercedes Cumming, Inspector General
Office of the Inspector General (OIG)
100 North Holliday Street, Suite 635
Baltimore, MD 21202

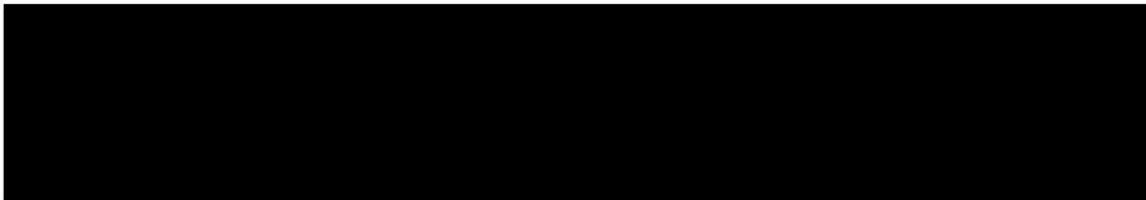
RE: OIG Management Alert Case #23-0007-I

Dear Inspector General Cumming:

The City of Baltimore Department of Finance has received and reviewed the September 20, 2022 memo and documentation related to the Office of the Inspector General (OIG) [REDACTED] Case #23-0007-I. As noted, the OIG received the complaint from the Department of Finance alleging that an employee in the Bureau of Accounting and Payroll Services (BAPS) [REDACTED]

The Department of Finance concurs with the findings of the report and has taken the following actions:

- 1) Appropriate personnel follow up actions were taken and the identified employee is no longer a City of Baltimore employee.



- 3) The Department of Finance worked with human resources to clarify additional employment screening at hiring for candidates depending on position type (sensitive class and/or positions of trust and job function) and is utilizing those additional screenings.

The Department of Finance appreciates the Office of the Inspector General's investigation and the opportunity to address these issues.

Sincerely,

Michael Moiseyev