

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



**Isabel Mercedes Cumming**  
**Inspector General**

**Investigative**  
**Report Synopsis**

**OIG Case #24-0784-C**

**Issued: July 10, 2024**



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



July 10, 2024

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 on June 5, 2024, alleging that Department of Public Works (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.

On June 6, 2024, the OIG completed a site visit to the Cherry Hill yard, where 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.

On June 14, 2024, 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 was referred to DPW management's attention and the OIG received DPW's response on June 26, 2024 (Exhibit 1). After receiving the response, the OIG received further complaints from employees as temperatures had reached danger zones and a health advisory was implemented.

Today, as a result of the complaints received, the OIG performed an emergency follow-up visit at 6 a.m. The health and welfare of our employees is paramount to City government and the attached findings support immediate remedy.

Sincerely,

Isabel Mercedes Cumming  
Inspector General

**REPORT FRAUD, WASTE AND ABUSE**

HOTLINE: 443-984-3476/800-417-0430 EMAIL: [OIG@BALTIMORECITY.GOV](mailto:OIG@BALTIMORECITY.GOV) WEBSITE: [OIG.BALTIMORECITY.GOV](http://OIG.BALTIMORECITY.GOV)

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

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, Baltimore City Solicitor  
Khalil Zaied, Director of Department of Public Works  
Faith Leach, Chief Administrative Officer  
Simone Johnson, Deputy City Administrative Officer  
Marvin James, Mayor's Chief of Staff  
Shonkaye Stanley, Deputy Chief of Risk Management

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