

OFFICE OF THE INSPECTOR GENERAL
CITY OF BALTIMORE



Isabel Mercedes Cumming
Inspector General

Investigative
Report Synopsis

OIG Case # 23-0031-I

Issued: November 14, 2023



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



November 14, 2023

Dear Citizens of Baltimore City,

The mission of the Office of the Inspector General (OIG) is to promote accountability, efficiency, and integrity in the City of Baltimore (City) government, as well as to investigate complaints of fraud, financial waste, and abuse. The following synopsis is a condensed version of the full report provided to City management officials and does not contain all investigative information. The OIG commends DOT for its agency response and prompt attention to the following matter.

The Office of the Inspector General (OIG) received a complaint alleging a Department of Transportation (DOT) Supervisor allowed a DOT employee (DOT Employee) to take Baltimore City furniture home for personal use. Further, the complaint alleged the DOT Employee sustained an injury while taking the furniture home.

Investigation revealed that an office move for a DOT division took place over a few months in 2022 and 2023. In regards to the complaint, according to the DOT Employee, the employee attempted to move a broken chair to the old office so it could be discarded. The DOT Employee explained that the chair fell while loading it onto a vehicle, and they sustained an injury. The DOT employee did not know where the chair was placed after the injury occurred or its current location.

Regarding the DOT Employee, the chair, and the injury, the DOT Supervisor confirmed they gave the DOT Employee permission to take a surplus desk chair home and that it was intended for the DOT Employee's personal use. According to the DOT Supervisor, they told the DOT Employee not to move the chair on their own because it was heavy. Regarding the current location of the chair, the DOT Supervisor was uncertain. The DOT Supervisor said they plan to complete an inventory and have had cameras added to the new office location. Additionally, the DOT Supervisor explained that they have not permitted anyone else to remove property for personal use.

The OIG reviewed City Administrative Manual (AM) policies addressing inventory and supplies. AM-305-1, Part I *Control of City Inventory and Management of City Assets*, states surplus materials must be returned immediately to stock, and employees are not allowed to borrow equipment for personal use. According to the AM-306-1 *Property Disposal Program*, the City Purchasing Agent has the sole authority to determine the disposition of surplus property, including the movement and storage of such property.

The investigation substantiated the allegation that the DOT Supervisor authorized the DOT Employee to take home a City-owned chair. The chair remains unaccounted for to date. The OIG recommended the DOT division review AM 306-1 and AM 305-1 so compliance with City protocols when conducting inventory and surplus property management are met.

Sincerely,

Isabel Mercedes Cumming
Inspector General

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

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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