

OFFICE OF THE INSPECTOR GENERAL CITY OF BALTIMORE



Isabel Mercedes Cumming
Inspector General

Investigative Report Synopsis

OIG Case # 2017-0739

Issued: May 15, 2018

CITY OF BALTIMORE

CATHERINE E. PUGH, Mayor



OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL

640 City Hall
100 N. Holliday Street
Baltimore, Maryland 21202

May 15, 2018

Dear Citizens of Baltimore City,

The Office of Inspector General (OIG) conducted an investigation regarding the theft of scrap water meters by a Utility Meter Technician I in the Department of Public Works (DPW). What follows is the public synopsis of the Report of Investigation.

The mission of the OIG is to promote accountability, efficiency, and integrity in City government, as well as the investigation of complaints of fraud, financial waste, and abuse in City government. The OIG investigation determined the DPW employee was stealing water meters from the storerooms of the Department of Public Works and selling them at scrap yards. Over a period of less than three years the employee stole 23,575 pounds (11.5 tons) of mixed brass consisting of scrap water meters, belonging to the City of Baltimore. This resulted in a financial loss to the City of Baltimore in excess of \$30,000.

After interviewing DPW storeroom supervisory personnel, the OIG determined there was sufficient evidence to report this matter to Baltimore Police Department (BPD). BPD detectives, with the assistance of the OIG, conducted a full investigation, to include conducting surveillance, obtaining statements from other DPW employees and viewing surveillance camera footage from the scrap yard.


The BPD and the OIG consulted with the Baltimore City State's Attorney's Office regarding criminal prosecution of the employee. As a result of the evidence obtained from this investigation, BPD arrested the DPW employee.

In December 2017, the employee pleaded guilty in Circuit Court of Baltimore City to Theft Scheme: \$10k - \$100k. The employee was sentenced to ten years' incarceration with all suspended except time served and three years' supervised probation. At the restitution hearing in May 2018, he was ordered to pay \$30,000 in restitution to the City of Baltimore.

This investigation determined a need for better internal controls and increased physical security measures in all DPW storerooms. These recommendations were made to DPW management. DPW management agreed with the OIG recommendations and immediately began the process for increasing internal controls and physical security measures for all DPW storerooms. DPW has created a new position entitled Contract Service Specialist II and assigned a new employee to this position assigning them the specific duties of management and oversight of all DPW storerooms.

The OIG would like to thank the Department of Public Works and the Baltimore City Police for its cooperation and assistance in this investigation, and the Baltimore City State's Attorney's Office for prosecuting this case.

Sincerely,



Isabel Mercedes Cumming, Inspector General
Office of the Inspector General

Cc: Hon. Catherine E. Pugh, Mayor of Baltimore City
Hon. Bernard C. Young, President, City Council
Honorable Members of the Baltimore City Council
Hon. Andre M. Davis, City Solicitor