



GOOD GOVERNMENT

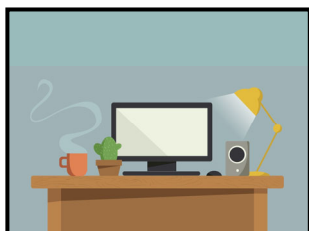
Committed to Honesty and Integrity in City Government

Kamau C. Marable — Editor-In-Chief

Fall 2022

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FROM THE DESK OF THE IG

Only Doing My Job...

Many, many years ago, when I was still working at the City of Detroit Law Department, one of the former mayoral appointees told me that whenever she saw an email from me in her in-box, she wanted to scream and run. I informed her that as a lawyer, sometimes, I have to deliver bad news. She eventually understood that I was only doing my job, a job I cannot complete without her cooperation and assistance.



IG Ellen Ha

On one occasion, a former mayoral appointee ignored my emails and phone calls when I requested to meet with him. So, I went to his office to see him in-person. I was told he was in a meeting and that it would be a while before he can meet with me. I sat outside his office for several hours and told his executive assistant that I will not leave until he sees me. I eventually met with him later that day and from that day forward, we worked together so that we can assist each other in doing our respective job.

I have a different job now. I can only imagine how many more people would like to scream and run when they see my name or OIG in their in-boxes. I can also understand why some people would like to avoid any interaction with me or my staff if they can. I am certain that not many people look forward to engaging our office or

be involved in any of our investigations.

Therefore, we thank you in advance for cooperating with our investigations no matter how outlandish the allegations may appear. We are all just trying to do our jobs and we can all do this in a more efficient manner if we work together.

So, if you should get an email or call from our office, please don't avoid us. Let's work with each other to ensure there is honesty and integrity in the City of Detroit!

** Please note the former mayoral appointees I referenced previously were appointees of former mayors.*

SALUTING FORMER DETROIT INSPECTOR GENERAL JAMES W. HEATH



James W. Heath

In August 2012, James Heath was appointed as the City of Detroit's first Inspector General. We credit former IG Heath with laying a strong foundation that has allowed the OIG to continue to thrive.

After completing his six-year term as Inspector General, Mr. Heath went on to become Corporation Counsel for Wayne County. In September 2022, Mr. Heath was inaugurated as the 88th President of the State Bar of Michigan.

We congratulate Mr. Heath on his continued success. We also thank him for establishing a solid foundation for our office. It is impossible to measure how much we appreciate his dedication to public service and his continued support of our office.



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EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT

MEET...Beverly

By April Page



Beverly Murray

Tell us about yourself... I was born and raised in Detroit. I am the second oldest of four children, two sisters and a brother. I have nieces and nephews that I love dearly. I also have a large extended family that I am very close with as well. I have two pets, my dog, Morgan, and my cat Bryant. I graduated from Eastern Michigan University with a BBA in Accounting and a Graduate Certificate in Finance. I have what some consider to be a strange interest in Broadway musicals. The fact that I have no actual singing ability myself doesn't stop me from singing along. I'm a bit of an introvert socially, so I don't get out much. I love the Lions despite their challenges, so I am hoping to make it to a game before the season is over.



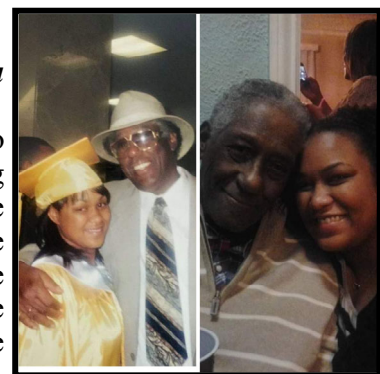
Beverly & Best Friend Mya

How long have you been with the OIG, and what is your role?

I have worked for nine and a half years for the OIG as a Forensic Auditor. I've been interested in fraud since college. I was in college during the Enron scandal, and it became a topic in many classes. Since then, I wanted to investigate fraud. I've been a Certified Fraud Examiner since 2010 and a Certified Inspector General Auditor since 2013.

If you could have dinner with any two people, dead or alive, who would you choose?

I was very close to my grandfather. If I could see him again, I would like to have dinner with him. The last time I saw him was a perfect day. He was a big role model for me. I have a desire to help people and that comes from him. The second person would be Jesus, because I have questions. The bible can be interpreted many ways. I would ask questions like, is this how we should be doing things? What are we really supposed to be doing here? Is this how we should be looking at this? We all want to go to heaven, let's make sure we are doing the right thing to get there.



Beverly & Grandfather Norris

What adjective would your coworkers use to describe you and why?

A former coworker Norman described me as the conscience of the office.

I guess that adjective would be conscientious.



Beverly & Family

We have an important job to do here, and I just want to do my part to make sure we are doing it correctly. I have been told by coworkers that when difficult questions arise, they wonder what my thoughts would be on the matter, and that makes me feel valued and respected.

Tell us something you learned recently...

I was listening to a podcast recently where they discussed imposter syndrome. It's basically an internal belief that despite your success in life, you're not as skilled or as competent as others see you, leading to self-doubt that is almost crippling. For individuals like myself with Attention-deficit/hyperactivity disorder (ADHD), it is a common belief, but it is not limited to people with ADHD. It made a lot of sense to me because whenever I receive a compliment at work, I tend to downplay it as just being lucky, or the hard work of someone else. Hearing this made me understand a little better why I shy away from the spotlight, like I'm afraid someone will figure out I don't belong here. The podcast also had tips on how to overcome this, which I found helpful in reminding myself that I worked hard to get here, and I should stop doubting myself.

What is your favorite television show?

I like shows of the supernatural/fantasy genre. My favorite show is Buffy the Vampire Slayer. I loved the show when I was growing up and rewatch it often. I think it's because it combined the supernatural/fantasy elements that I like with interesting characters and storytelling.



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RED FLAGS OF FRAUD








Employee Misconduct

By Jennifer Bentley

Government fraud is an illegal act that intentionally robs the government of money and resources through deception or scams. The impact of fraud ranges from financial loss to declines in credibility and public confidence with residents and taxpayers ultimately paying the price. In our upcoming newsletters, the OIG will be publishing a series of articles that highlights different types of fraud and the warning signs, or “red flags,” of potential fraudulent behavior.

This edition focuses on employee misconduct. An employee’s fraudulent misconduct is generally described as the intentional and unauthorized taking, destruction, or use of government money, property, inventory, or records. Common types of fraud include time and attendance fraud, misuse of city resources including vehicles and employees, voucher fraud, inventory fraud. Below are the red flags that suggest something might be going on.

Red Flags May Include:

-  ***Time and Attendance Fraud-***
 - ◆ Inaccurate, corrected, or missing timecard submissions; excessive overtime or questioned time, such as splitting overtime between pay periods to avoid bi-weekly pay limit caps; employees self-certifying timecard submissions.
-  ***Misuse of City Vehicles-***
 - ◆ Use of city vehicles for non-official purposes; dedicated vehicles available to unauthorized employees or family members.
 - ◆ Logs for vehicle mileage and fuel consumption not maintained or inconsistent with vehicle use policies.
-  ***Misuse of Other City Resources-***
 - ◆ Requesting the assistance of city employees for personal purposes; misuse of business class travel.
-  ***Voucher Fraud-***
 - ◆ Overstated expenses (e.g. mileage, taxis, other transportation expenses) and consistent submission of expenses at or just under the reimbursement limit for undocumented claim; receipts that do not match timeframe; claims for reimbursement without receipts or for unauthorized expenses.
-  ***Inventory Fraud-***
 - ◆ Inventory does not reconcile. There are overages indicating goods received are not being entered in the system or there are missing items suggesting theft.
 - ◆ Inventory records are incomplete, inaccurate, or out of date.
 - ◆ Lax warehouse controls (e.g. same person logs items entering or leaving warehouse).
 - ◆ Excessive purchasing levels.

Disclaimer- these red flags should not be taken alone as evidence that fraud is occurring. However, if you see any of these red flags, contact our office and we will figure it out.



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DEPARTMENT SPOTLIGHT

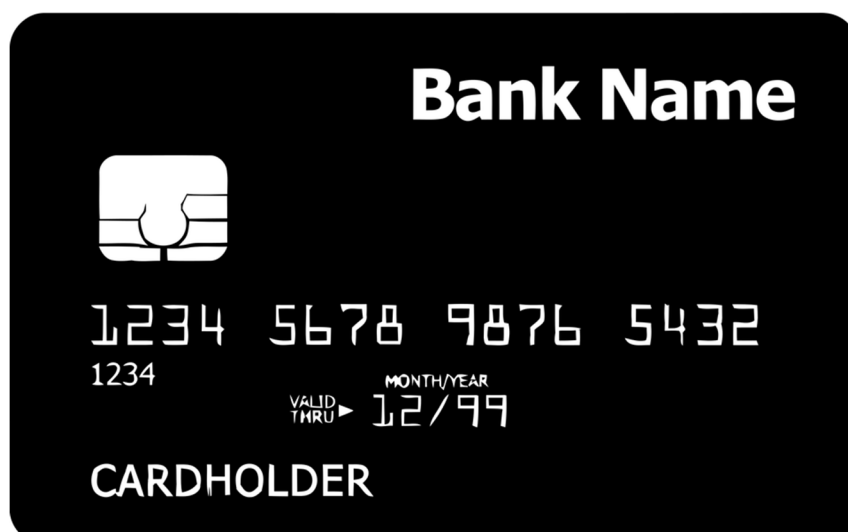
DWSD UPDATING ITS CREDIT CARD POLICY TO REDUCE DEPARTMENT'S POTENTIAL EXPOSURE TO FRAUD, ABUSE, OR CORRUPTION

By Edyth Porter-Stanley

In July 2022, the OIG completed a forensic audit of the Detroit Water and Sewerage Department's (DWSD) credit card transactions for the period of July 1, 2019, through June 30, 2021. The audit included a review of the policies and procedures governing purchases with the cards as well as purchases over a 2 year period. The objective of the audit was to determine if there was evidence of potential fraud, abuse, waste or corruption in the usage of the DWSD's credit cards by its employees. Based on the audit findings and recommendations, the OIG concluded that DWSD was not consistently enforcing existing policies and procedures to prevent waste, fraud, abuse and corruption by employees using the credit cards. In addition, the OIG concluded the existing policies did not provide enough clarity on the type of purchases that should be made with the credit cards or what information should be included on supporting documentation.

As a result of the OIG's forensic audit, DWSD provided a corrective action plan which includes enforcing the policies and procedures that were in place prior to the audit. In addition, DWSD's Chief Financial Officer, Istakur Rahman, committed to implementing additional controls to "strengthen the enforcement" of cardholders submitting supporting documentation, revising the policy to further clarify what qualifies as supporting documentation and clarify what purchases can be made with the credit cards and what needs to go through the Procurement Process. Mr. Rahman also committed to transition to an electronic process for the collection and reconciliation of supporting documentation to monthly credit card statements.

As such, the OIG would like to thank Mr. Rahman and Professional Administrative Analyst Sheena Poploskie for their cooperation during the audit and their commitment to mitigating the risk of waste, fraud, abuse and corruption related to purchases made with the DWSD credit cards in the future.





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DID YOU KNOW?

BY KASHA GRAVES & TRACEY NEAL



City of Detroit Departments Complaints Contacts List

DID YOU KNOW...

Complaints that do not fall within the Office of Inspector General jurisdiction is referred to the proper Agency Department for assistance? We are a helping hand to point you in the right direction for resolution.

COMPLAINT ISSUE	DEPARTMENT	CONTACT	Address	Website/e-mail
1) House repairs, landlord issues		313-224-2733		
2) Construction licensing		313-224-3202		
3) Permit for hotwater tank		313-224-3179		
4) Property Maintenance Issues		313-628-2451		
5) Rodents	Building, Safety, Engineering, and Environmental Dept. (BSEED)	313-876-0426	2 Woodward Ave. Ste 401 Det, MI 48226	www.detroitmi.gov/BSEED
6) Zoning		313-224-1317		
Student Loan Forgiveness for Employees and Retirees	City of Detroit Human Resources Dept. (HR)	313-224-5854	www.detroitmi.gov/departments/elections	www.detroitmi.gov/departments/humanresources
Marijuana Ventures and Entrepreneurship-Applications	CRIO/ Homegrown	313-418-9217	Civil Rights, Inclusion & Opportunity 2 Woodward Avenue, Suite 1240, Detroit, MI 48226	www.detroitmi.gov/homegrown
Illegal Dumping	Detroit Police Dept. (DPD)	e-mail only	e-mail only	Meridaw086@detroitmi.gov
Abandoned Cars	Detroit Police Dept. or Neighborhood Police Dept. (NPO)	313-224-8832	Headquarters 1301 3rd Street Detroit, MI 48226	www.detroitmi.gov/DPD
Water Leaks in and outside of house or Building	Detroit Water & Sewerage Dept.	313-267-8000	1300 Roldolph Det, MI 48226	mydwsd@detroitmi.gov
Non-payment for working at Election polls Contact (Monique Stevens)	Elections-Ms. Monique Stevens	313-876-0230	stevensm@detroit.gov	www.detroitmi.gov/departments/elections
Working at the Election polls	Elections	313-876-0190	Detroit Department of Elections 2978 W. Grand Blvd., Detroit, MI 48202	www.detroitmi.gov/departments/elections
Neighbor with weeds, grass and trees out of control, need tree cut down	General Service Dept. (GSD)	313-628-0900	Northwest Activity Center	www.detroitmi.gov/gsd
Housing Issues, Looking for, having trouble with finding, shelter resources, etc,	Housing & Revitalization Dept.	313-224-6380	2 Woodward, Ste-908 Detroit MI 48226	www.detroitmi.gov/departments/hrd
Parking Issues	Municipal Parking Dept.	313-221-2500	1600 W. Lafayette, Detroit, MI 48216	www.detroitmi.gov/departments/mpd
Problems with city property tax assessments	Office of the Assessors	313-224-3011	2 Woodward Ave Ste115 Det, MI 48226	www.detroitmi.gov/BSEED
Income Tax related questions	Office of the Chief Financial Officer (OCFO)	313-224-1219	2 Woodward Ave Ste115 Det, MI 48226	www.detroitmi.gov/departments/ocfo
Unsatisfied Constituents	Ombudsman Office	313-224-6000	2 Woodward Ave Detroit Parks & Recreation	www.detroitmi.gov/departments/recreation
My Child wants to learn how to swim?	Parks & Recreation Dept.	313-224-1100	Recreation One Detroit Ctr. Bldg. 500 Woodward Ave Detroit, MI 48226	www.detroitmi.gov/departments/pension
Problems with pension	Pension Department	313-224-3362	400 Monroe St Ste 485 Detroit, MI 48226	pladetroit.org info@pladetroit.org
Street Lights on street or in alleys are out	Public Lighting Dept.	313-324-8290	Detroit, MI 48226	
Purchasing of vacant lots or homes	The Land Bank	313-964-6869	Griswold St Det, MI 48226	www.builddetroit.org
Garbage: not picked-up, trash can damaged	Waste Management	1-844-233-8764; 1-844-464-3587	Westside, Eastside	www.detroitmi.gov/DPW
Birth Certificates, death certificates, marriage licenses, divorce decree	Wayne County Clerk's Office	313-224-5565 313-967-6938	500 Monroe Detroit, MI 48226	www.waynecounty.com/clerk
Wayne County Property Tax number	Wayne County Treasury Dept.	313-224-5990	500 Monroe Detroit, MI 48226	www.wayne.com/tresury