



Richmond Office of the City Auditor

Office of the Inspector General

Fighting government waste, fraud and abuse

Umesh Dalal, CPA, CIA, CIG

Richmond City Auditor/Inspector General

September 7, 2012

Mr. Christopher Beschler, DCAO, Operations

Mr. James Jackson, Director of Public Works

The Office of the Inspector General has completed an investigation in the Department of Public Works. This letter informs you of the results of the investigation.

Complaint

The Office of the Inspector General received a complaint that a City of Richmond vehicle #05-2793 was observed in Dinwiddie County at Southerland Sports and at the Whippernock Marina in Dinwiddie County.

Legal Requirements

In accordance with the Code of Virginia, §15.2-2511.2, the City Auditor is required to investigate all allegations of fraud, waste and abuse. Also, the City Code section 2-231 requires the Office of the Inspector General to conduct investigations of alleged wrongdoing.

Background

On August 18, 2012, the City vehicle was observed at Southerland Sports in Dinwiddie County where a firearms seminar was being held. Upon completion of the seminar, a male entered the vehicle along with a female passenger and left the location. On August 19, 2012, a second complainant observed the City vehicle at the Whippernock Marina in Dinwiddie County.

Findings

The investigator was able to identify the employee as a Tree Maintenance Specialist IV in the Urban Forestry Division of the Department of Public Works. The subject employee was the on-call on these dates and was authorized to use the City vehicle for official City business.

During the investigator's interview, the subject employee admitted personal use of the vehicle as follows:

- On August 18, 2012, the DPW employee was at Southerland Sports in Dinwiddie County with the City vehicle at a seminar along with his fiancée.
- On August 19, 2012, the DPW employee had his boat hitched to the back of the City vehicle and was at the Whippernock Marina in Dinwiddie County.

He claimed that the Urban Forestry Operations Manager advised him that he had unrestricted use of the City vehicle, including personal use, when on call. The investigator interviewed the Operations Manager who denied the subject employee's assertions.

Conclusion

The OIG finds the allegations to be substantiated. The OIG recommends that the Department of Public Works take appropriate disciplinary action against the subject employee in accordance with the City policies.

If you have any questions, please contact me at extension 5640.

Sincerely,



Umesh Dalal, CPA, CIA, CIG
City Auditor/Inspector General

Cc: Byron Marshall, Chief Administrative Officer