



# Richmond City Council

*The Voice of the People*

*Richmond, Virginia*

## Office of the Inspector General

June 25, 2021

Mr. Lincoln Saunders  
Interim Chief Administrative Officer  
City of Richmond

The Office of the Inspector General (OIG) has completed an investigation in the Department of Public Utilities (DPU). This report presents the results of the investigation.

### **Allegation:**

The Office of Inspector General received an anonymous complaint alleging an employee from the Department of Public Utilities Gas and Light Division was misappropriated meal reimbursement funds.

### **Legal Requirements:**

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

### **Findings:**

The Investigator contacted the Deputy Director, Department of Public Utilities to discuss the complaint and was advised that the Department of Public Utilities was aware of the subject employee action and had started an investigation. The subject employee was identified as an Administrative Technician Senior assigned to the Department of Utilities Gas and Light Division. The subject employee was responsible in part for the proper distribution of meal money to employees who worked unscheduled overtime.

The subject employee, was interviewed by DPU and an audit was performed and it was determined that the subject employee embezzled \$3290 from the Meal Money Reimbursement to which the subject employee agreed to re-pay. DPU conducted a Pre-Disciplinary hearing which was substantiated and the subject employee was terminated.

Upon separation of employment of the subject employee the City applied \$1,305.21 of vacation payout towards the total amount due. This left a balance owed to the City of Richmond by the subject employee of \$1,984.79.

The subject employee agreed to a payment plan and failed to make any payments towards the amount owed of \$1,984.79. DPU made numerous attempts to contact the subject employee which was met with negative results. The City of Richmond filed a Civil Case against the subject employee in Richmond-Civil General District Court and was awarded a judgment against the subject employee on February 23, 2021.

**Conclusion:**

Based on the findings, the OIG concludes that the allegation is substantiated against the Administrative Technician Senior. The OIG also recommends that the City of Richmond continue to pursue the subject employee for repayment.

If you have any questions, please contact me at extension 1840.

Sincerely,



James Osuna,  
Inspector General

cc: Alfred Scott, Interim Director Department of Public Utilities  
Honorable Members of City Council