



# Richmond City Council

The Voice of the People

Richmond, Virginia

## Office of the Inspector General

November 22, 2024

Ms. Kristen Nye  
President, Richmond City Council

The Office of the Inspector General (OIG) has completed an investigation within the Richmond City Auditor's Office. This report presents the results of the investigation.

### **Authority:**

1. In accordance with the Code of Virginia §15.2-2511.2, the Inspector General is required to investigate all allegations of fraud, waste, and abuse.
2. City of Richmond Code 2-214 authorizes the Office of the Inspector General to conduct criminal, civil and administrative investigations related to the municipal affairs of the City.

### **Background:**

The subject of the investigation is an Internal Auditor with the City Auditor's Office. The Internal Auditor conducts audits for the City of Richmond. The Internal Auditor provided false documents and misrepresented themselves to their supervisor for absences.

### **Allegations:**

1. An Internal Auditor with the City Auditor's office provided a fraudulent emergency room record to the City Auditor as justification for their absence. In violation of City of Richmond Administrative Regulation 1.1 Code of Ethics.

Va. Code §15.2-2511.2 defines fraud as, "Fraud means the intentional deception perpetrated by an individual or individuals, or an organization or organizations, either internal or external to local government, that could result in a tangible or intangible benefit to themselves, others, or the locality or could cause detriment to others or the locality. Fraud includes a false representation of a matter of fact, whether by words or by conduct, by false or misleading statements, or by concealment of that which should have been disclosed, which deceives and is intended to deceive."

### **Facts:**

An Internal Auditor with the City Auditor's Office reported being sick on October 24, 25, 28, and 29, 2024. The Internal Auditor told their supervisor they went to the Emergency Room on October 24, 2024, and October 28, 2024, and would return to work on October 30, 2024. The Internal Auditor's supervisor requested the Internal Auditor provide a doctor's

note and emergency room documentation to document the absence. The Internal Auditor provided their supervisor with a doctor's note and emergency room documents. The supervisor suspected the emergency room documentation was fraudulent. The Office of the City Auditor contacted the Office of the Inspector General, in accordance with the Code of the City of Richmond Sec 2-161, Procedure for disclosure to report possible fraudulent misconduct.

The Office of the Inspector General investigator reviewed the emergency room documents and the doctor's note. The investigator then went to the hospital where the emergency room visit allegedly occurred. The hospital representative confirmed that there was no record of the Internal Auditor being seen in the emergency room on October 28, 2024. The hospital representative also determined that the hospital did not provide the emergency room documents provided by the Internal Auditor.

The OIG investigator interviewed the Internal Auditor. The Internal Auditor admitted that the emergency room documents were fraudulent and stated they did not go to the emergency room on October 28, 2024. The Internal Auditor stated the emergency room documents they provided were from their patient portal from a previous visit and not from the date they provided to their supervisor.

**Analysis:**

City of Richmond Administrative Regulation 1.1, Code of Ethics, Section II. Policy states in part, "Richmond citizens have a right to have complete confidence in the integrity of City employees and officials with respect to adherence to the highest ethical standards of integrity and honesty, and to treat all members of the public and fellow City employees with respect, courtesy, concern and responsiveness." The Internal Auditor's actions, related to the submission of fraudulent documents, was dishonest and does not meet the standards required in this policy. The internal auditor knowingly submitted false emergency room documentation to their supervisor to conceal the fact that she did not go to the emergency room which calls their honesty and integrity into question. This action meets Va. Code §15.2-2511.2 for fraud.

Allegation: **Substantiated.**

**Conclusion:**

Based on the findings, the Office of the Inspector General concludes the allegation is substantiated.

Point of contact for this report can be reached at extension 1840.

Submitted,



James Osuna  
Inspector General

CC: Honorable Members of City Council  
Riad Ali, Richmond City Auditor.