



# Richmond City Council

The Voice of the People

Richmond, Virginia

## Office of the Inspector General

March 4, 2025

Ms. Sabrina Joy-Hogg

Interim Chief Administrative Officer

City of Richmond

The Office of the Inspector General (OIG) has completed an investigation within the Department of Social Services. 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 investigation involves a City of Richmond Department of Social Services (DSS) Family Services Specialist that works in the Division of Children, Families, and Adults, which focuses on ensuring that families and children are safe and secure in their homes and throughout the community. DSS workers must occasionally travel during case investigations using the City of Richmond vehicle assigned to that department.

### **Allegations:**

1. A City of Richmond DSS Family Services Specialist wasted government resources by operating a city vehicle and taking it outside City limits for an extended period of time.

### **Facts:**

On January 31, 2025, the Auditor's Office forwarded a civilian complaint to OIG. The complainant stated that on January 29, 2025, they observed a City of Richmond vehicle parked at a Sheetz at 13591 Genito Road, Midlothian, Virginia, 23112, from 1:30 p.m. to 2:00 p.m. The complainant provided the vehicle number and a description of the driver, stating they were concerned the City vehicle was outside of City limits and wasting government funds.

The OIG investigator obtained and reviewed the DSS authorized vehicle form and identified the driver of said vehicle as a Family Services Specialist from Adult Services. The Child Protective Services (CPS) vehicle sign-out log showed the Family Services Specialist used the specific vehicle provided by the complainant on January 29, 2025, from 10:45 a.m. to 3:18 p.m.

The OIG investigator contacted the Family Services Specialist's supervisor and verified that the Family Services Specialist was authorized to use the DSS vehicle on that date and time outside of the City limits to complete field visits for Guardianship cases in the area observed by the

complainant. The supervisor further stated that each staff member is allotted a lunch break, even if they are in the field. As indicated on the CPS vehicle sign-out log, the Family Services Specialist's lunch break occurred during that time.

City of Richmond Administrative Regulation 6.2, Motor Pool and City Vehicle Usage Section IV Operating Boundaries, "1. City vehicles are provided for use within the corporate limits of the City of Richmond. 2. Employees required to operate a vehicle outside the corporate limits to perform normal business must obtain permission from their Appointing Authority prior to operating a city vehicle outside the City's corporate limits. Authorized Use 2. No personal use of the City-owned vehicle is allowed." The Family Service Specialist had authorization from their supervisor to operate the City-owned vehicle outside of City limits to conduct their field visits in that area and complied with the City Vehicle Usage policy.

**Analysis:**

Va. Code §15.2-2511.2 states that "Waste" means the intentional or unintentional, thoughtless or careless expenditure, consumption, mismanagement, use, or squandering of resources owned or operated by the locality to the detriment or potential detriment of the locality. Waste also includes incurring unnecessary costs because of inefficient or ineffective practices, systems, or controls. Based on the investigation's facts, the Family Services Specialist followed City policy, filled out the appropriate paperwork documenting the vehicle usage, and had proper authorization from their supervisor to be outside of the City limits in that area to conduct field visits. The Family Services Specialist did not carelessly squander any City resources or misuse the DSS assigned vehicle, therefore not constituting waste.

Allegation No. 1 is **Unsubstantiated**.

**Conclusion:**

Based on the findings, the Office of the Inspector General concludes that this allegation is Unsubstantiated.

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

Submitted,



James Osuna  
Inspector General

CC: Honorable Members of City Council  
Traci DeShazor, DCAO, Human Services  
Shonda Giles, Director, Department of Social Services