



Richmond City Council

The Voice of the People

Richmond, Virginia

Office of the Inspector General

Report of Investigation

Odie Donald II
Chief Administrative Officer
City of Richmond

February 26, 2026

The Office of the Inspector General (OIG) has completed an investigation within the Department of Public Utilities (DPU). 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 this investigation is a Construction Inspector at the Department of Public Utilities (DPU). The Construction Inspector was attending training at the DPU facility.

Allegations:

1. A Construction Inspector with the Department of Public Utilities is alleged to have abused city time by leaving work in his personal vehicle after they clocked in, on several occasions.
2. A Construction Inspector is alleged to not be in possession of a driver's license as required by his position description.

Facts:

On October 22, 2024, the Office of the Inspector General received a complaint alleging a Construction Inspector with DPU arrived at work, clocked in, and left in their personal vehicle.

Investigators periodically conducted surveillance at the DPU facility located at 400 Richmond Highway Richmond, VA. Investigators did not observe the Construction Inspector leaving after arriving for work. Throughout the course of the investigation, investigators discovered the Construction Inspector was completing training and was not working outside of the office.

Investigators spoke with supervisory personnel who stated they did not observe the Construction Inspector leaving or neglecting their training. The supervisory personnel stated the Construction Inspector would ride with another team member while in training if they left the facility.

The Construction Inspector resigned from his position before the OIG could conduct an interview.

Analysis:

“Abuse” means the excessive or improper use of something or the employment of something in a manner contrary to the natural or legal rules for its use; the intentional destruction, diversion, manipulation, misapplication, maltreatment, or misuse of resources owned or operated by the locality; or extravagant or excessive use to abuse one’s position or authority. Va. Code §15.2-2511.2

City of Richmond Administrative Regulation 5.13, Time and Attendance, Section II, Procedure 1. states, “The biometric reader is a device that will be utilized by non-exempt employees to capture the most accurate time and attendance and thus pay each employee accordingly. The biometric reader will record the employees actual sign-in/out based on the employee scanning their appropriated hand/finger”

Based on the facts of the investigation, the Construction Inspector did not abuse city time by leaving after starting work.

Allegation No. 1 is **unsubstantiated**.

2. A Construction Inspector did not have a driver’s license as required by their job description.

Facts:

The Construction Inspector was hired by the city of Richmond on July 1, 2024. One of the stipulations to being hired was an agreement that the Construction Inspector would obtain a valid driver’s license within six (6) months of being hired. The Construction Inspector obtained a valid license and attended the City’s drivers’ course on November 6, 2024.

Analysis:

The Construction Inspector obtained his license within the time frame the City allotted. There is no policy that would have been violated if the Construction Specialist did not obtain their license, however it is required for the job position they held.

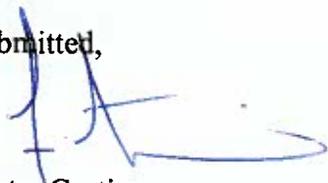
Allegation No. 2 is **unsubstantiated**.

Conclusion:

The allegations against the Construction Inspector were unsubstantiated.

The point of contact for this report can be reached at extension 1844.

Submitted,



Foster Curtiss
Inspector General

CC: Honorable Members of City Council
Scott Morris, Director of Public Utilities