

**GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA**  
**Office of the Inspector General**

Inspector General



December 13, 2005

The Honorable Anthony A. Williams  
Mayor  
District of Columbia  
1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.  
Mayor's Correspondence Unit, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, Suite 221  
Washington, D.C. 20004

**RE: SIGNIFICANT ACTIVITY REPORT**

Dear Mayor Williams:

This report is to inform you of an investigation conducted by Special Agent Karen Meunier, D.C. Office of the Inspector General (OIG), concerning Tonette Cooks, a former employee of the District of Columbia Office of Finance and Treasury assigned to the Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV).

On November 15, 2005, Cooks was sentenced by U.S. District Judge Gladys Kessler to a term of 18 months in prison, followed by one year of supervised release. The court also ordered Cooks to pay \$200,000 in restitution. Cooks and Sherry J. McKnight, an individual who brought "customers" to Cooks, pleaded guilty in October 2003 to an indictment charging the two of them with federal bribery in connection with a ticket-fixing bribery scheme at the D.C. Adjudication Services Branch.

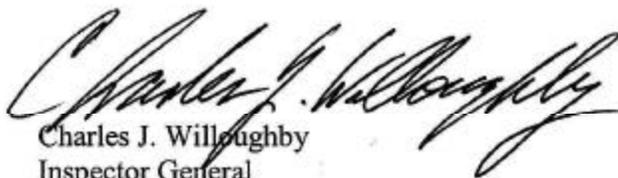
This investigation revealed that Cooks and McKnight were involved in a scheme where Cooks manipulated the DMV computer system to clear unpaid fines in exchange for money. The customers who paid Cooks and McKnight were given computerized printouts as receipts to indicate that the tickets had been paid in full. As a result of the scheme, the District of Columbia government lost between \$200,000 and \$400,000 in revenue.

On April 28, 2004, Judge Kessler sentenced McKnight to 46 months imprisonment, followed by three years of supervised release. She was also ordered to pay \$200,000 in restitution.

The Honorable Anthony A. Williams  
Mayor of the District of Columbia  
December 13, 2005  
Page 2

If you need any additional information, please feel free to call me on (202) 727-2540 or Robert G. Andary, Assistant Inspector General for Investigations, on (202) 727-1039. When calling, please reference OIG Control Number 2002-0373.

Sincerely,



Charles J. Willoughby  
Inspector General

CJW/km