

GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
Office of the Inspector General

Inspector General



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY CONCERNING AN
INVESTIGATION INTO MISCONDUCT
VIOLATIONS BY AN EMPLOYEE OF THE
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA OFFICE OF THE
CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER

2013-0424 (S)

INVESTIGATIVE SYNOPSIS

The District of Columbia Office of the Inspector General (OIG) has completed an investigation, which revealed that a Tax Examining Technician, D.C. Office of the Chief Financial Officer (OCFO), improperly used a District of Columbia (D.C.) disability placard to obtain free parking in the vicinity of his/her District of Columbia work place.

During the investigation, OIG investigators conducted observations of the OCFO Tax Examining Technician's vehicle,¹ and reviewed records obtained from the D.C. Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) regarding the D.C. registration tag and D.C. disability placard number. OIG investigators also interviewed the OCFO Tax Examining Technician.

The investigation revealed that D.C. disability placard had been issued by DMV to an Engineering Equipment Operator, D.C. Department of Public Works,² who is the Tax Examining Technician's husband. Between July 2013 and August 2013, OIG investigators conducted three observations during which the OCFO Tax Examining Technician's vehicle was observed parked in the vicinity of 1101 4th Street, S.W., Washington, D.C., at metered parking spaces, with a D.C. disability placard hanging from the rearview mirror. On each of the three occasions, OIG investigators observed the parking meter and the OCFO Tax Examining Technician's vehicle, and saw that s/he made no payment for the use of the metered parking space.

OIG investigators interviewed the OCFO Tax Examining Technician on two occasions. In the first interview, the OCFO Tax Examining Technician told investigators that s/he obtained a D.C. disability placard from his/her husband. The OCFO Tax Examining Technician stated that s/he had used his/her husband's handicapped placard to park in the 1000 block of 6th Street, S.W., for approximately 6 months, from February/March 2013 to August 2013. The OCFO Tax Examining Technician told OIG investigators that s/he paid the meter for 4 hours, and used the handicapped placard to get 4 hours of free

¹ The OCFO Tax Examining Technician owned a 2011 Kia Soul, which bore D.C. registration. These observations were conducted on July 19, 2013, July 30, 2013, and August 1, 2013.

² The OIG investigation determined that the employee separated from DPW, effective November 29, 2013.

parking. According to the OCFO Tax Examining Technician, s/he took the placard out of his/her vehicle on August 23, 2013, and is no longer using it to obtain free parking at his/her workplace vicinity. The OCFO Tax Examining Technician admitted to OIG investigators that s/he knew it was improper to misuse his/her husband's handicapped placard to avoid paying for parking.

Upon review of the OCFO Tax Examining Technician's initial statement, OIG investigators questioned the veracity of OCFO employee's responses regarding the length of time that s/he claimed s/he used the D.C. disability placard, as well as why s/he would pay the meter for only half the day. Therefore, OIG investigators conducted a second interview with the OCFO Tax Examining Technician. During the second interview, the OCFO Tax Examining Technician ultimately admitted that s/he improperly obtained free parking for approximately 15 months from May 2012 to August 2013, and stated that s/he did not make any form of payment. The OCFO Tax Examining Technician maintained that h/she discontinued this practice in August 2013.

CONCLUSION

The OIG investigation revealed that OCFO Tax Examining Technician improperly obtained free parking using a D.C. disability placard issued to someone else on at least three occasions between July 2013 and August 2013. In addition, the OCFO employee admitted regular misuse of the D.C. disability placard during a 15-month period of time in the vicinity of his/her workplace to park for free.

Accordingly, this investigation has **SUBSTANTIATED** that the OCFO Tax Examining Technician violated DPM § 1803.1 (a)(6) (Affecting adversely the confidence of the public in the integrity of government).

RECOMMENDATIONS

Based on the results of this investigation, the OIG recommends that the OCFO:

- Address the OCFO Tax Examining Technician's conduct with appropriate administrative action; and
- Ensure that all OCFO employees are trained appropriately regarding the District's standards of conduct.

May 15, 2014