

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

Inspector General



**Executive Summary Concerning the Results  
of an Office of the Inspector General Investigation  
Into Misconduct Violations by an Employee of the  
D.C. Office of the State Superintendent of Education**

**2010-0010**

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**INVESTIGATION SYNOPSIS**

The District of Columbia Office of the Inspector General (OIG) received allegations in late 2009 that a seasonal D.C. Office of State Superintendent of Education (OSSE) Motor Vehicle Operator fraudulently received unemployment insurance (UI) benefits from the Department of Employment Services (DOES) for the period June 25, 2006, through December 23, 2006, while simultaneously working as a District government employee. The investigation revealed that the employee fraudulently received \$6,671.00 in benefits in 2006.

During the investigation, OIG investigators interviewed a Supervisor and a Claims Examiner in the Office of Unemployment Compensation (OUC), DOES. OIG investigators also interviewed a Special Pay Specialist, Office of Pay and Retirement Services, Office of the Chief Financial Officer (OCFO), and the employee. OIG investigators also reviewed DOES UI claim forms the employee submitted, UI benefit history reports, UI eligibility rules as they relate to seasonal employment, and the employee's District government wage verifications.

The OIG investigation revealed that from June 25, 2006, through December 23, 2006, the employee worked as a bus attendant in OSSE's Department of Transportation (DOT), while simultaneously, receiving UI benefits totaling \$6,671.00. DOES prepared *Notice of Overpayment* forms, which detail the UI overpayments the employee received, and the Special Pay Specialist prepared a report of the employee's wage history, for the same time period, June 25, 2006, through December 23, 2006.

The DOES Supervisor advised that there is no DOES policy specific to seasonal employees. Seasonal employees, like all persons claiming UI benefits, are required to complete UI claim forms that ask whether they have performed work and/or received severance pay during the weeks for which UI is being claimed, and if so, to indicate the amount of gross earnings.

The employee stated that she has been a seasonal bus attendant since March 2004. The employee stated that during the summer of 2005 she was not working and filed for UI

benefits.<sup>1</sup> When she returned to work, however, she continued to submit UI claim forms she knew to be false so that she could extend her UI benefits. The employee stated that she again applied for UI benefits during the summer of 2006, while on a break from her employment, and again continued to file false UI claim forms to receive UI benefits after she returned to work. After she received notification from DOES regarding the overpayments, she agreed to a repayment schedule of \$150/month. According to the employee, she stopped making monthly payments at the end of 2010 due to medical issues. The employee did not indicate any earnings on the UI claim forms she submitted for the period June 25, 2006, through December 23, 2006.

On February 28, 2011, the United States Attorney's Office declined to bring any criminal charges against the employee. On June 10, 2011, the OIG referred to the Office of the Attorney General for the District of Columbia (OAG) to request civil recoupment in the amount of \$6,671.00.

### **CONCLUSION**

In sum, the employee violated the District's standards of conduct by fraudulently receiving \$6,671.00 in UI benefits while working for the District government. As a result, the employee impeded government efficiency or economy and adversely affected the confidence of the public in the integrity of government. Accordingly, the issue of whether the employee violated DPM § 1803.1 (a) (3) (Impeding government efficiency or economy) and § 1803.1 (a) (6) (Affecting adversely the confidence of the public in the integrity of government) is **substantiated**.

### **RECOMMENDATIONS**

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

- Address the employee's conduct with appropriate administrative action;
- Ensure that all OSSE employees are trained appropriately regarding the District's standards of conduct; and
- Ensure that all seasonal OSSE employees are trained appropriately regarding claims for UI benefits.

*Dated: June 14, 2011*

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<sup>1</sup> The OIG criminal investigation did not include an analysis of the employee's receipt of UI benefits in 2005. In addition, DOES informed OIG investigators that the employee improperly received \$3,393.00 in UI benefits during the period of September 25, 2005, and December 24, 2005. The Claims Examiner advised OIG investigators that the employee entered into a repayment agreement with DOES. DOES records indicate that, to date, the employee has repaid DOES \$1,795.00, but according to the Claims Examiner, the employee stopped making payments in October 2010. DOES has not been able to locate the employee's repayment agreement.