

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

2010-0011 (S)

INVESTIGATION SYNOPSIS

The District of Columbia Office of the Inspector General (OIG) received allegations in late 2009 that a seasonal D.C. Office of the State Superintendent of Education (OSSE) employee fraudulently received unemployment insurance (UI) benefits from the Department of Employment Services (DOES) for the period July 1, 2006, through January 6, 2007, while simultaneously working as a District government employee. The investigation revealed that the employee fraudulently received \$4,712.00 in benefits between 2006 and 2007.

During the investigation, OIG investigators interviewed a DOES Program Analyst and the employee. OIG investigators also reviewed DOES UI claim forms the employee submitted, UI benefit history reports, and the employee's District government wage verifications.

The OIG investigation revealed that from July 1, 2006, through January 6, 2007, the employee worked as a bus attendant in OSSE's Department of Transportation (DOT), while simultaneously receiving UI benefits totaling \$4,712.00. DOES prepared the *Overpayment Claimant Profile* form, which details the employee's total outstanding balance, and a report of the employee's wage history for the same time period, July 1, 2006, through January 6, 2007. All persons claiming UI benefits are required to complete a UI claim form that asks whether the applicant has performed work and/or received severance pay during the weeks for which UI benefits are being claimed, and if so, to indicate the amount of gross earnings.

During the OIG investigation, the employee stated that he has been a bus attendant since September 2005. The employee stated that during the summer of 2006 he received notice that he probably would not be working again until September 2006 and, therefore, filed for UI benefits. Although he continued employment with the District, he completed and submitted UI benefit claim forms stating that he did not perform work, which he knew

was false, and continued to obtain UI benefits. The employee did not indicate any earnings on the UI claim forms he submitted for the period July 1, 2006, through January 6, 2007. The employee stated that on his own initiative he ceased applying for UI benefits in October 2007.

On June 2, 2011, the United States Attorney's Office declined to bring any criminal charges against the employee. On August 26, 2011, the OIG referred this matter to the Office of the Attorney General for the District of Columbia (OAG) for civil recoupment in the amount of \$4,712.00.

CONCLUSION

In sum, the employee violated the District's standards of conduct by fraudulently receiving \$4,712.00 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; and
- Ensure that all OSSE employees are trained appropriately regarding the District's standards of conduct and the administrative requirements governing claims for UI benefits.

Dated: August 30, 2011