

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 PUBLIC SCHOOLS

2013-0445 (S)

INVESTIGATIVE SYNOPSIS

The District of Columbia Office of the Inspector General (OIG) has completed an investigation, which revealed that a District of Columbia Public Schools (DCPS) employee improperly used a South Carolina (SC) 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 DCPS employee's vehicle,¹ as well as reviewed records obtained from the South Carolina Department of Motor Vehicles (SC DMV) regarding the SC disability placard, Maryland Motor Vehicle Administration (MVA) regarding registration tag assigned to the DCPS employee's vehicle, and D.C. Department of Motor Vehicles. OIG investigators also interviewed the DCPS employee.

The investigation revealed that the SC disability placard had been issued by SC DMV to the DCPS employee's grandmother.² Between June 2013 and July 2013, OIG investigators conducted four observations during which the DCPS employee's vehicle was observed parked in the vicinity of 1200 1st Street, N.E., Washington, D.C., at metered parking spaces, with the SC disability placard hanging from the rearview mirror. On each of the four occasions, OIG investigators observed that the DCPS employee had made no payment for the use of the parking space.

In his/her OIG interview on July 30, 2013, the DCPS employee initially told OIG investigators that s/he obtained the SC disability placard from his/her grandmother, and s/he uses it to transport his/her grandmother. The DCPS employee stated that s/he has had possession of the SC disability placard for the last 4 to 5 years. The DCPS employee

¹ The DCPS employee owned a vehicle, which bore a MD registration tag. These observations were conducted on June 24, 2013, July 1, 2013, July 17, 2013, and July 29, 2013.

² According to SC DMV, the DCPS employee's grandmother has been deceased since August 7, 2008.

subsequently admitted to OIG investigators that his/her grandmother died in 2008. The DCPS employee admitted that in 2013, s/he had driven to work every Monday and Wednesday, and regularly parks in the area of 1st Street, N.E., using the disability placard to obtain free parking. The DCPS employee told investigators that s/he used the disability placard infrequently during 2012 and could not remember how much use s/he made of the disability placard in 2011 and 2010. The DCPS employee admitted that s/he has never driven a handicapped person to any location in D.C. and that s/he has used the disability placard to park for free in other areas of D.C. The DCPS employee also admitted that s/he altered the expiration date of the disability placard to reflect 2014 as the expiration date in order to prevent getting parking tickets. In addition, the DCPS employee admitted that s/he had used the disability placard to park his/her vehicle during his/her OIG interview.³ The DCPS employee acknowledged that his/her misuse of the disability placard was wrong.

CONCLUSION

The OIG investigation revealed that the DCPS employee improperly obtained free parking using a SC disability placard issued to someone else on at least four occasions between June 2013 and July 2013. In addition, the DCPS employee admitted regular misuse of the SC disability placard during 2013 and infrequent use of the disability placard in 2012. The DCPS employee could not remember the frequency of his/her actual use of the disability placard in 2011 and 2010. The DCPS employee also admitted that s/he altered the expiration date of the disability placard to prevent getting parking tickets.

Accordingly, this investigation has **SUBSTANTIATED** that the DCPS employee 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 DCPS:

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

October 17, 2013

³ At the conclusion of the DCPS employee's OIG interview, OIG investigators accompanied him/her to G Street, N.W., at which time s/he removed the disability placard from his/her vehicle and surrendered the disability placard to investigators.