

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

2013-0154 (S)

INVESTIGATIVE SYNOPSIS

The District of Columbia Office of the Inspector General (OIG) has completed an investigation which revealed that a District of Columbia Office of the Chief Financial Officer (OCFO) employee improperly used a Maryland (MD) 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 employee's vehicle¹ as well as reviewed records obtained from the D.C. Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) regarding the D.C. registration tag assigned to the OCFO employee's vehicle and the MD Motor Vehicle Administration (MVA) regarding the MD disability placard. OIG investigators also interviewed the OCFO employee.

The investigation revealed that the MD disability placard had been issued by MVA to the OCFO employee's mother. Between January 2013 and February 2013, investigators conducted five observations during which the OCFO employee's vehicle was observed parked in the vicinity of 1101 4th Street, S.W., Washington, D.C., at metered parking spaces, with the MD disability placard hanging from the rearview mirror. On each of the five occasions, investigators observed that the OCFO employee had made no payment for the use of the parking space.

In the employee's OIG interview on February 27, 2013, the OCFO employee told investigators that he/she obtained a MD disability placard from his/her mother in January or February 2012. The OCFO employee admitted that he/she drives to work every day, parks in the area of 4th Street, S.W., and usually makes no form of payment for parking. According to the OCFO employee, he/she injured his/her ankle in last year; however, he/she admitted that he/she used the placard before injuring his/her ankle. In addition, the OCFO

¹ The OCFO employee owned a vehicle, which bore a designated D.C. registration tag. These observations were conducted on January 10, 2013, January 29, 2013, February 4, 2013, February 6, 2013, and February 19, 2013. A DMV investigator conducted the observations on January 29th and February 4th.

employee acknowledged that his/her use of the disability placard was not proper. During the OCFO employee's interview, he/she indicated that he/she resided in Maryland but his/her daughter attended a D.C. public charter school.²

CONCLUSIONS

The OIG investigation revealed that the OCFO employee improperly obtained free parking using a MD disability placard issued to someone else on at least five occasions between January 2013 and February 2013. In addition, the OCFO employee admitted to regular misuse of the MD disability placard during a one-year period of time, in the vicinity of his/her work place, to park for free.

Accordingly, this investigation has **SUBSTANTIATED** that the OCFO 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 OCFO:

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

July 15, 2013

² OIG investigators obtained documentation to confirm that the OCFO employee's daughter attends a D.C public charter school. The D.C. Office of the Attorney General (OAG) was notified by the OIG, and the OAG will seek civil recoupment in the amount of \$18,069 from the OCFO employee.