

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
District of Columbia Office of the Chief Financial Officer**

2012-0307 (S)

INVESTIGATIVE SYNOPSIS

The District of Columbia Office of the Inspector General (OIG) completed an investigation, which revealed that an Office of Integrity and Oversight (OIO), OCFO employee, improperly used a Maryland (MD) disability placard while parking at her workplace in the District of Columbia and in other locations in MD. During the investigation, OIG investigators interviewed OCFO OIO personnel who work at the OIO employee's work location, 1100 4th Street, SW, Washington, D.C., and the OIO employee.

The investigation revealed that the OIO employee regularly drives to and from work in her vehicle, registered to her and her husband at their Maryland address, bearing a Maryland license plate number. The OIO employee regularly parks on level P2 of the Central Parking Garage located at her work location, 1100 4th Street, SW, Washington, D.C. The investigation also revealed that the OIO employee's husband has a Maryland disability placard, identified by number 682275.

On seven occasions between February 9, 2012, and March 15, 2012, OIG investigators observed the OIO employee's vehicle parked in a designated handicap (van) space on level P2 of the Central Parking Garage with her husband's Maryland Disability Placard hanging from the rear view mirror of her vehicle. In her interview with OIG investigators on March 22, 2012, the OIO employee admitted that her use of her husband's disability placard was improper and said that over the previous year, she used it 10 to 15 times per month to park at work. She acknowledged that her husband was not present on any of those occasions. The OIO employee also said that she has used her husband's disability placard when he was not present to park at MD supermarkets and restaurants. She added, "it is what it is - - bad judgment."

ANALYSIS AND CONCLUSIONS

The OIG investigation clearly revealed that the OIO employee improperly used a MD disability placard issued to another person to obtain special parking privileges, by parking in a designated handicap parking space on at least seven occasions between February 9, 2012, and March 15, 2012. The OIO employee admitted regular misuse of the MD disability placard at her workplace and at locations in Maryland. The OIO employee's improper use of a disability placard issued by the State of Maryland to park in a space reserved for the handicapped in a District of Columbia public parking garage used by District government employees affects adversely the confidence of the public in the integrity of government in that a District government official, particularly one who works in an agency's integrity unit, is expected to adhere to the highest standards of conduct.

Accordingly, this investigation has **SUBSTANTIATED** that the OIO 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 OIO employee's conduct with appropriate administrative action; and
- Ensure that all OCFO employees are trained appropriately regarding the District's standards of conduct.

Dated: November 20, 2012