

# GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

## Office of the Inspector General

Inspector General



### INVESTIGATION INTO MISCONDUCT VIOLATIONS BY AN EMPLOYEE OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA OFFICE OF THE CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER

2011-0571 (S)

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#### 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 District of Columbia work place.

During the investigation, OIG investigators conducted surveillances of the OCFO employee's vehicle<sup>1</sup>, and reviewed records obtained from the MD Motor Vehicle Administration (MVA) regarding the MD registration tag assigned to the OCFO employee's vehicle and 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-in-law. Between September 2011 and December 2011, OIG investigators conducted four surveillances during which the OCFO employee's vehicle was observed parked in the vicinity of 1101 4<sup>th</sup> Street, S.W., Washington, D.C., at metered parking spaces, with the MD disability placard hanging from the rearview mirror. On each of the four occasions, OIG investigators observed both the parking meter and the dashboard of the OCFO employee's vehicle and saw that the OCFO employee had not paid for metered parking.

In his OIG interview on January 16, 2012, the OCFO employee admitted that he used his mother-in-law's MD disability placard so that he can park for free. The OCFO employee told investigators that he uses the disability placard to drive his mother-in-law to the doctor, but he does not take her to Washington, D.C. The OCFO employee told investigators that he received the disability placard from his mother-in-law in the summer of 2011 and has used the disability placard approximately 80 times, without paying for metered parking. The OCFO employee acknowledged to investigators that his use of the Maryland disability placard was a misuse.

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<sup>1</sup> The OCFO employee co-owns a vehicle which bore a designated MD registration tag. The surveillances were conducted on September 19, 2011, October 5, 2011, December 1, 2011, and December 21, 2011.

## **CONCLUSION**

The OIG investigation revealed that the OCFO employee improperly obtained free parking using a MD disability placard issued to his mother-in-law on at least four occasions between September 2011 and December 2011. In addition, the OCFO employee admitted to regular misuse of the disability placard in the vicinity of his place of work.

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.

*Dated: January 9, 2013*