

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 OFFICE OF THE DEPUTY MAYOR FOR PLANNING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

2013-0457 (S)

INVESTIGATION SYNOPSIS

The District of Columbia Office of the Inspector General (OIG) has completed its investigation into an allegation that a District employee from the Office of the Deputy Mayor for Planning and Development (DMPED) improperly received a monthly housing subsidy from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). The investigation determined that the DMPED employee failed to report to housing officials that his/her income increased after becoming employed with the District of Columbia government in July 2012. As a result, the DMPED employee received \$2,156 in HUD housing subsidies to which s/he was not entitled.

OIG investigators reviewed the lease agreement¹ between the housing complex management company and the DMPED employee and his/her spouse; Annual Recertification-Questionnaires; and other documents relative to their eligibility for and receipt of a monthly housing subsidy. OIG investigators also interviewed the Assistant Property Manager, and the DMPED employee.

Based on his/her annual salary prior to employment with the DMPED, the employee and spouse were eligible to receive a \$196 monthly HUD housing subsidy. The lease agreement and associated documents that the DMPED employee signed required, among other things, s/he immediately report changes between regularly scheduled recertification, including where “[t]he household income cumulatively increases by \$200 or more a month.”

In early July 2012, the DMPED employee and spouse signed a Lease Amendment with the housing complex management company, which set their monthly housing subsidy at \$196. In late July 2012, the DMPED employee began employment with the District of Columbia government and his/her income increased by more than \$200 per month.

¹ The DMPED employee and spouse executed a lease agreement in December 2011. The initial term of the lease agreement was from December 15, 2011, to November 30, 2012.

However, the DMPED employee failed to notify housing complex management and omitted his/her new income from the District of Columbia government on an annual recertification form.

The DMPED employee admitted to OIG investigators that s/he did not notify the rental office about the income increase, knew of the requirement to report an increase of \$200 in monthly salary, and that s/he should have been more diligent about complying with the reporting requirements. The DMPED employee also accepted responsibility for not making sure that everything was handled properly.

CONCLUSION

In summary, the DMPED employee's failure to timely notify Sursum Corda management of his/her increase in monthly salary of more than \$200, after being hired by the District of Columbia government in July 2012, caused an overpayment of federal housing subsidies in the amount of \$2,156. The DMPED employee's conduct violated the District's standards of conduct by impeding government efficiency or economy and adversely affected the confidence of the public in the integrity of government. Accordingly, the issue of whether the DMPED employee violated DPM §§ 1803.1(a)(3) (impeding government efficiency or economy) and (a)(6) (affecting adversely the confidence of the public in the integrity of government) is **SUBSTANTIATED**.

RECOMMENDATION

Based on the results of this investigation, the OIG recommends that DMPED:

- Address the DMPED employee's conduct with appropriate administrative action.

September 24, 2014