



OFFICE OF THE INSPECTOR GENERAL
MONTGOMERY COUNTY, MARYLAND

FISCAL YEAR 2023 ANNUAL REPORT

CELEBRATING 25 YEARS OF EXCELLENCE

MEGAN DAVEY LIMARZI, ESQ.
INSPECTOR GENERAL

FY 2023 HIGHLIGHTS



TABLE OF CONTENTS

FY 2023 Highlights	i
Message from the Inspector General.....	1
Overview.....	2
Investigations and Inspections Division Summary.....	4
Audit and Program Review Division Summary.....	5
Summary of Significant Activity.....	6
Appendix: Findings, Recommendations and Status.....	10

This report is submitted pursuant to Montgomery County Code Section 2-151(k)(1) which requires the Inspector General to submit by October 1 of each year an annual report to the Council and the Executive on the activities of the Office and its major findings and recommendations during the previous fiscal year.



FROM THE INSPECTOR GENERAL

Megan Davey Limarzi, Esq.
Inspector General

In October 1997, the County Council enshrined into law their commitment to accountability in county government and publicly funded agencies by creating the Montgomery County Office of the Inspector General (OIG). Offices of Inspector General fulfill a critical role in our democratic society. They foster and promote transparency in government operations. They shine a light on the workings of government programs to identify efficiencies and potential cost savings, and they detect and deter fraud, waste, abuse, and mismanagement. OIGs provide necessary oversight, build public trust, and serve as a resource to employees, residents, and whistleblowers who want, and deserve to be heard and helped.

Over the past 25 years, the dedicated staff of this office has consistently strived to exhibit excellence in their work and to support county government's power to do good in the lives of our residents. The history of this office shows oversight has not always been an easy road. There were disagreements about access to county records and the role of the OIG, debate of a charter amendment that would have affected the independence of the OIG, and even an attempt in 2004 to abolish the OIG entirely. But despite those challenges, the Office of the Inspector General has steadily soldiered on. We have provided independent, objective, and reliable analysis of government operations through the publication of over 170 reports. Since our hotline was opened in 2006, we have responded to over 1,660 calls, emails and letters from employees and residents reporting suspected fraud, waste, and abuse. And for 25 years we have faithfully worked to ensure county leaders, employees, and residents are well informed about how tax dollars are spent.

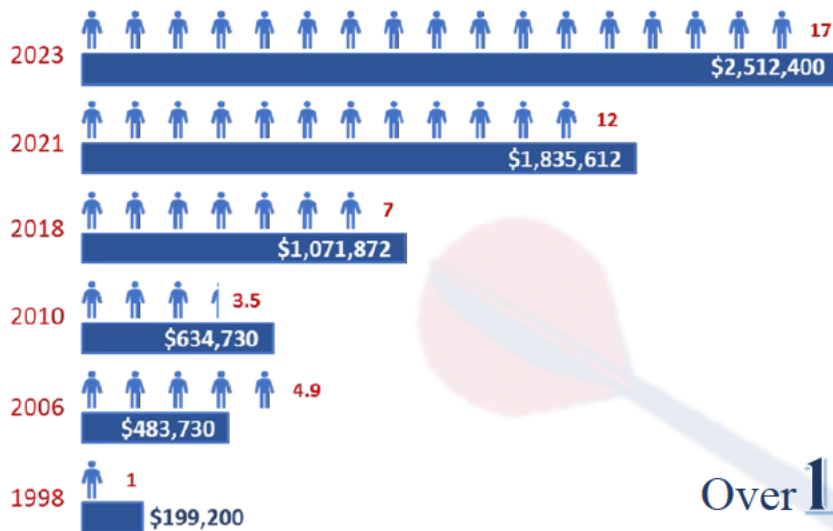
Fiscal year 2023 was no exception to the OIG's tradition of excellence. Over the past year we have published reports covering a wide breadth of subject areas reflective of the county's goals and values. We examined programs focused on the county's commitment to protecting the environment and providing food security to those in need; examined the management of inventory; and evaluated numerous methods of payment. In several projects, we examined the safeguards and controls around how tax dollars are used to pay for goods, services, travel, emergency needs, and legal obligations. We continued to enhance our own skills and competencies through training and dialogue and were evaluated by the Association of Inspectors General Peer Review to be an office of the highest caliber.

The staff of the OIG has served this community with distinction and excellence for the last quarter century. I am incredibly proud of all the members of our team, and I am honored to lead the OIG as we continue this tradition of excellence into the next 25 years.

CELEBRATING 25 YEARS OF EXCELLENCE

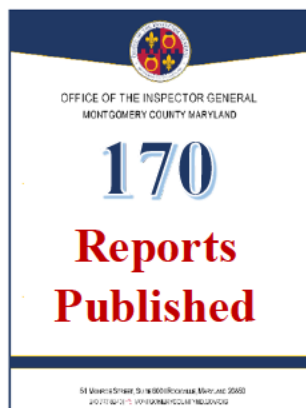
Over the course of the OIG's 25 years, we have watched as the county has undergone tremendous change. County services and programs increased along with the **operating budget** which **grew** from nearly **\$4B** in the late 1990s to nearly **\$7B** in fiscal year 2024. Montgomery County leaders shepherded the county through the Great Recession and weathered a once in a lifetime global pandemic. The county's population has grown from approximately 800,000 residents to over 1 million, and its **public schools** serve nearly **35,000 more students** today than they did in 1997.

Growth in OIG Budget and Staff Over 25 Years



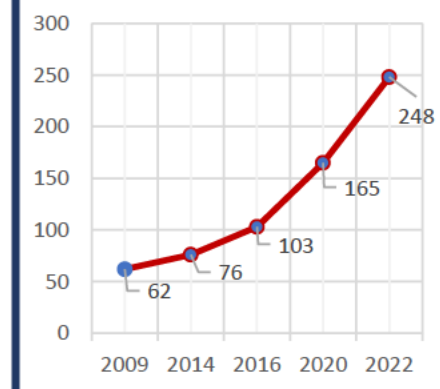
Over **1,600** hotline complaints

The OIG's response to county residents was aided by the establishment of the OIG hotline in 2006. Since that time, the hotline has fielded over 1600 complaints.



The OIG communicates the results of its work through published reports. Since the establishment of the office, the OIG has published over 170 reports covering a wide array of topics providing transparency to county programs and operations.

Complaint Growth



OIG Established

1997



Norman Butts Appointed As 1st Inspector General

1998



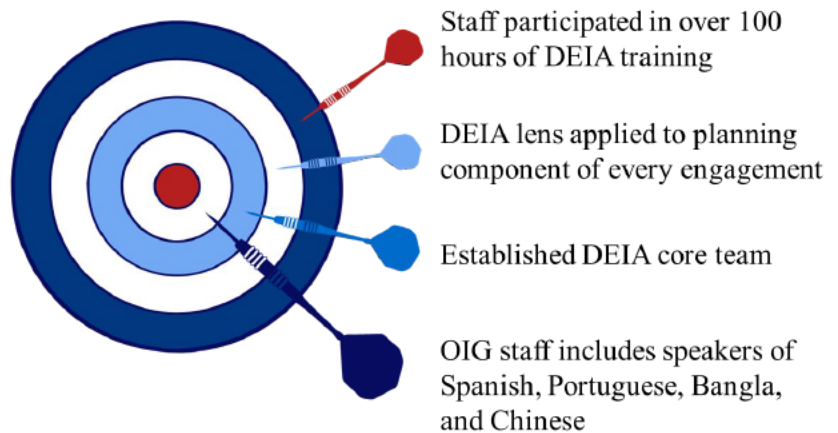
IG Sunset Date Revoked Making Office Permanent and Establishing IG Terms

2000

RECENT AMENDMENTS TO THE OIG STATUTE

- Addition of mandate requiring audit of all principal departments
- Staff elevated to merit status
- Expanded protections against retaliation to all complainants
- Obligation to report fraud, waste, and abuse extended to contractors
- Enhanced subpoena power to ensure access to necessary records

Aiming For Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Accessibility



Actions Taken In Response to OIG Findings

- County-wide policy portal to manage policy updates
- Greater compliance with county financial policies
- New fee assessment to ensure solvency of solid waste fund
- Procurement system enhancements to accurately track emergency spending
- Updates to county policies, regulations, and administrative procedures

OIG Passes Independent Peer Review



In April 2023, the Association of Inspectors General's Peer Review Team conducted an assessment of the OIG's operations for the period of July 1, 2018- June 30, 2022. The team evaluated whether the OIG's system of quality control was suitably designed, and whether the OIG is performing and reporting its work in accordance with professional standards and applicable laws. After conducting in-depth examinations of the reviews, audits, and investigations completed by the OIG during the review period, and meeting

with all OIG staff as well as several stakeholders, the Peer Review Team unanimously concluded that the Montgomery County Office of the Inspector General met all qualitative standards set by the Association of Inspectors General Principals and Standards for Offices of Inspector General and the standards established by the United States General Accountability Office.

The OIG has passed each of the four peer reviews conducted since its inception.



Tom Dagley Appointed
Inspector General

2005



OIG Hotline Established

2006

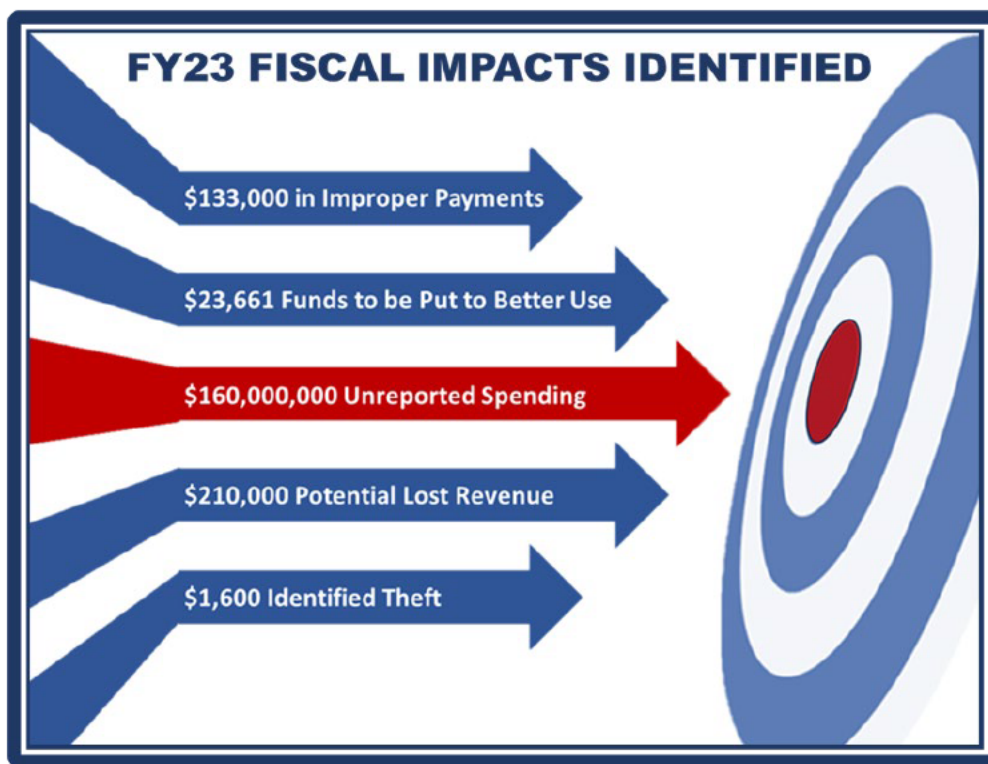


Council Audit
Committee Established

2009

Investigations and Inspections Division Summary

The Investigations and Inspections Division (I&I) of the OIG is comprised of seasoned career investigators with an average of 20+ years of experience conducting complex investigations at the federal, state, and local level. I&I staff manages the OIG hotline and investigates allegations of fraud, waste, abuse, and mismanagement. Additionally, the division conducts proactive reviews assessing the effectiveness and efficiency of county departments, agencies, and programs. I&I staff develops specific and thorough recommendations to address inefficiencies or systemic weaknesses identified during their reviews. To ensure I&I staff maintains the highest quality standards, all work is performed in accordance with the Association of Inspectors General Principles and Standards for Offices of Inspectors General.



I&I SIGNIFICANT ACTIVITY IN FY23

- ✓ Completed 10 engagements resulting in 27 findings, 3 observations and 32 recommendations for improvement.
- ✓ Devoted over 3,000 hours investigating complaints, engagements, and investigations related to Montgomery County Public Schools.
- ✓ Two Staff members were conferred Certified Inspector General Investigator and Certified Inspector General Evaluator designations.
- ✓ Addressed all 197 complaints received by the OIG hotline within 5 days.



Ed Blansitt
Appointed Inspector General

2011



20th Anniversary of the OIG

2017



Megan Davey Limarzi
Appointed Inspector General

2019

Audit and Program Review Division Summary

FY23 AUDIT DIVISION RESULTS

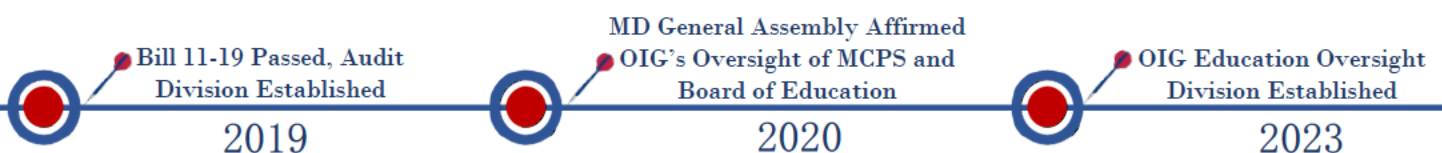
\$175.5 M	✓	Funds Subject to Review
7	✓	Findings
13	✓	Recommendations
3	✓	Reports Published
4	✓	New Auditors
2	✓	Audits in Progress

The OIG's Audit and Program Review Division (Audit Division) conducts independent and objective audits of county departments, offices, and agencies to evaluate the efficiency and effectiveness of operations. The Division conducts audits of high-risk county contracts and agreements and the county's internal accounting and contracting processes and controls.

The Division's audits are conducted in accordance with generally accepted government auditing standards (GAGAS) which provides the framework for performing high-quality audits that reflect competence, integrity, objectivity, and independence. In FY23, the Audit Division completed three audits under GAGAS.

FY23 SIGNIFICANT FINDINGS

- ✓ The county applied a consumer price index percentage to rate increases for trash collection services that differed from the terms of service contracts, potentially resulting in the county paying more than anticipated.
- ✓ The Solid Waste Collection fund is operating in a deficit, contrary to the county code and the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) Fund Balance Policy.
- ✓ DEP did not properly safeguard Solid Waste Permit decals and failed to maintain related records potentially making them vulnerable to theft.
- ✓ Office of Intergovernmental Relations (OIR) processed two duplicate payments for the same transactions resulting in a mistaken reimbursement to an employee.



SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACTIVITY

OIG Finds County Missing Opportunity to Collect Revenue through the Carryout Bag Tax Program

In furtherance of the OIG's mission to promote efficiency and effectiveness in county programs and operations, the OIG reviewed the administration of the county's carryout bag tax program. In January of 2012, the county began requiring certain retail establishments that provide plastic or paper carryout bags to charge consumers 5-cents per bag. The intent of the carryout bag tax was to shift a portion of litter cleanup costs from taxpayers to consumers, while offering a choice to avoid the 5-cent charge by bringing reusable bags.

The OIG review found that poor administration and weak implementation of the carryout bag tax law diminished its potential impact. OIG testing of a sample of county retailers concluded that not all were charging the mandated bag tax, not all were registered in the county's Bag Tax System, and some were potentially not remitting collected taxes to the county. These deficiencies have resulted in the county not collecting thousands of dollars that could be used to defray the cost of litter cleanup efforts. The OIG also found that little has been done to assess the impact of the law on consumer behavior and the amount of litter generated from carryout bags. Available data does not yield information that allows the county to draw conclusions about the effectiveness of the carryout bag tax.

The OIG encouraged the county to establish formal testing protocols to better assess the impact of the tax. The OIG also urged county leadership to do more to identify retailers who should be remitting bag tax and take proactive steps to enforce compliance with the law. The county's Chief Administrative Officer generally concurred with the seven recommendations made by the OIG and agreed to reassess the enforcement of the carryout bag tax.

[[Publication Number OIG-23-015, Carryout Bag Tax](#)]

OIG Finds High Number of Traffic Tickets Issued to MCPS Vehicles

Predicated on observations made while investigating allegations related to the abuse of purchase cards (P-Cards) by MCPS Department of Transportation (DOT) employees ([OIG Publication #23-06](#)), OIG staff investigated the appropriateness of using MCPS P-Cards to pay for traffic citations received by employees driving agency vehicles. The OIG investigation revealed that between July 1, 2015, and January 24, 2023, MCPS employees received 1,622 citations from automated traffic enforcement devices (speed cameras, red light cameras, and school bus stop arm cameras) while driving MCPS vehicles. MCPS purchase cards were used to pay the associated fines.

The OIG noted that MCPS lacks written policies or procedures governing the management of citations throughout the agency. In some instances, this absence of formal policy caused processing errors, resulted in unpaid reimbursements by employees, and contributed to duplicate payments. The OIG encouraged MCPS to develop and memorialize policy and procedures addressing the management of traffic citations.

The OIG investigation found that school buses accounted for the largest population (62%) of MCPS vehicles receiving citations. School buses also accounted for 85% of citations issued to MCPS for violating school bus

stop arm laws. The OIG urged MCPS to evaluate the underlying causes for the high number of citations and to take steps to remediate contributing factors. MCPS ultimately agreed to pursue the OIG's recommendations.

[\[Publication Number OIG-23-012, MCPS Payment of Traffic Citations\]](#)

OIG Finds Improvements Needed in DEP's Recycling and Resource Management Division

Pursuant to the OIG's mandate to conduct reviews of the internal accounting practices and controls used by each department and principal office in the Executive Branch, the OIG audited the Montgomery County Department of Environmental Protection's (DEP) Recycling and Resource Management Division's activities. The division accounted for approximately 80% of the department's operating budget.

The OIG audit examined the extent to which DEP monitors residential trash collection service contract terms, and the effect of various factors on the refuse collection charge paid by residents. The audit also assessed controls over the issuance of collector and hauler licenses.

The OIG's comprehensive audit resulted in 6 findings, 4 noteworthy observations, and 12 recommendations. The OIG found the following principal issues during the audit:

- The County applied a Consumer Price Index percentage to rate increases that differed from the terms of service contracts.
- Solid waste performance bonds did not include all the county requirements for bonds.
- Due to operating at a deficit, the Solid Waste Collection fund is noncompliant with county code and DEP Fund Balance Policy.
- User access to DEP's Hauler-Collector Licensing system is not reviewed as required by county policy.
- The hauler and collector licensing process lacks a separation of duties.
- DEP did not properly safeguard Solid Waste Permit decals and failed to maintain related records.

The county's Chief Administrative Officer concurred with all 12 recommendations and agreed to take steps to implement corrective actions.

[\[Publication Number OIG-23-010, Performance Audit of Solid Waste Activities\]](#)

OIG Finds County Emergency Procurements Didn't Follow Policy

The OIG examined the county's use of emergency procurements to address food insecurity caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. The county's Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) spent approximately \$23 million in emergency procurements to fund efforts to combat food insecurity. Emergency procurements

carry an elevated risk of fraud, waste, and abuse due to less stringent review and approval requirements. Many of the controls and safeguards governing traditional procurements do not apply to emergency procurements, thereby allowing for less competition, scrutiny, and documentation. Although the use of emergency procurements is necessary and appropriate in certain circumstances, it is critical that the county maintains and follows processes that balance the competing interests of meeting unexpected needs while ensuring the integrity of public resources.

In conducting this review, the OIG noted that most emergency procurements were extended for multiple years and questioned whether the underlying exigency had subsided enough to allow for a traditional contracting process. The OIG uncovered 4 major findings, most notably that DHHS did not always comply with county regulations when requesting emergency procurements, and that mandated published county reports underreported approximately \$5 million in emergency food procurements. The OIG made 6 recommendations aimed at strengthening compliance with regulations, improving processes, and furthering transparency. The county's Chief Administrative Officer generally agreed with the recommendations.

[\[Publication Number OIG-23-09, Food Security and Emergency Procurements\]](#)

OIG Finds Misconduct In MCPS Purchase Card Program

The OIG conducted an investigation into allegations that the former Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS) Department of Transportation (DOT) Director and former Assistant Director misused agency purchase cards (P-Cards) to procure items for personal use. In the course of the investigation, the OIG analyzed approximately \$570,000 worth of transactions that occurred from July 2020 to June 2022 and found that approximately \$133,000 in purchases made using P-Cards issued to the former MCPS DOT Assistant Director were prohibited by policy. The OIG and MCPS deemed that approximately \$6,500 was spent on items that were possibly for non-MCPS related use. The OIG also found that MCPS DOT management and staff regularly violated MCPS P-Card policies.

The OIG noted that the backstop against program abuses and failures is a strong audit and oversight program. The OIG found that MCPS' P-Card monitoring program is not consistently followed and P-Card audits of central office departments, like DOT, are not routine. The OIG made similar observations in a 2016 review. The OIG made 5 recommendations as a result of this investigation, some of which are again targeted at improving oversight of P-Cards.

The OIG pursued this investigation after consulting with the Montgomery County Police Department about their investigation of alleged misconduct by the former MCPS DOT Director and former MCPS DOT Assistant Director. The OIG shared the results of its investigation with the State's Attorney's Office. Both former employees pled guilty to criminal charges for abuses conducted while employed with MCPS.

[\[Publication Number OIG-23-06, Report of Investigation - Abuse of Purchase Cards by MCPS DOT Employees\]](#)

OIG Follow Up Review of ABS Finds More Work Needed to Investigate Inventory Discrepancies

ABS serves as Montgomery County's sole wholesale distributor of alcoholic beverages to 1,033 licensees and 26 county-owned and operated retail stores. During FY23, the OIG evaluated the county's Alcohol Beverage Services' (ABS) efforts to address previous audit findings and recommendations regarding inventory control issues. The review focused on ABS's accuracy in loading trucks for order fulfillment and efforts to investigate inventory discrepancies during the order fulfillment and inventory process.

The OIG noted fewer discrepancies in ABS's annual inventory reconciliation than during a previous audit as well as greater compliance by drivers with check in procedures at the conclusion of their deliveries. However, the OIG found that 74% of beer trucks, and 52% of liquor/wine trucks sampled were inaccurately loaded. Additionally, in approximately 27% of the inventory adjustments tested, ABS was not able to provide any evidence that they investigated the cause for the adjustment.

The OIG issued two recommendations to address the noted findings and strengthen practices and controls around inventory control. The county's Chief Administrative Officer concurred with both recommendations and agreed to take steps to address the noted deficiencies.

[\[Publication Number OIG-23-05, Inventory Internal Controls Follow Up Review\]](#)

County Needs Additional Policy for Sale of Surplus Property Through On-Line Auction Platforms

The OIG investigated the county's use of the internet auction platform GovDeals.com (GovDeals) to dispose of surplus county property. Montgomery County has utilized GovDeals since 2008 to dispose of property that the county believes is no longer of use. By policy, the Director of Procurement may sell goods by any competitive method which they determine is likely to bring the highest return to the county. From January 2020 to June of 2022 the county sold approximately 370 items through GovDeals for approximately \$1,458,000.

The OIG's investigation found that the county's existing written policy does not reflect current practices. The investigation also found that county policy lacked direction on how to determine the value of items for sale and which party will pay the fees, or commissions, for the sale. Clearly defined policy would result in consistent practices, strengthen property accountability, and ensure the highest return for items sold through competitive methods.

The OIG made three recommendations focused on strengthening practices for the disposition of surplus county goods and maximizing returns which the county's Chief Administrative Officer agreed to implement.

[\[Publication Number OIG-23-02, Disposal of Surplus Property Utilizing GovDeals.com\]](#)

The seal of the Office of the Inspector General, Montgomery County, Maryland, is a circular emblem. It features a central shield divided into four quadrants. The top-left and bottom-right quadrants are blue and contain a yellow fleur-de-lis. The top-right and bottom-left quadrants are red and contain a yellow ring. The shield is encircled by a white border with the text "OFFICE OF THE INSPECTOR GENERAL" at the top and "MONTGOMERY COUNTY, MARYLAND" at the bottom, separated by two small dots.

APPENDIX: FY 2023 Findings and Recommendations

APPENDIX: Status of Findings and Recommendations

Montgomery County Code Section 2-151(k)(1) requires the Inspector General to submit by October 1 of each year an annual report to the Council and the Executive on the activities of the Office and its major findings and recommendations during the previous fiscal year. This Appendix provides a description of major findings and recommendations in published reports as well as the status of each recommendation as reported to the OIG by the Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS) and the Montgomery County Office of Internal Audit (MCIA) on behalf of the County.

Publication #	Report Title	Findings	Recommendations	Status (As Reported to OIG)
OIG-23-02	Disposal of Surplus Property Utilizing GovDeals.com	(1) The practices used to dispose of surplus goods deviate from guidance.	(1) We recommend the county evaluate current guidance, written procedures, and practices for the competitive disposition of surplus goods and formalize in writing methods to be followed. We further recommend the county standardize the procedures used to determine valuation and the payment of commissions for items sold through GovDeals.	(1) In Progress
			(2) We recommend that DOT implement policy and procedures to ensure that all revenue collected be processed in accordance with the county's financial policies and not be disposed of as surplus property.	(2) In Progress

Appendix: Status of Findings and Recommendations

Publication #	Report Title	Findings	Recommendations	Status (As Reported to OIG)
OIG-23-005	Inventory Internal Controls Follow Up Review, ABS	(1) Seventy-four percent of beer trucks, and fifty-two percent of liquor/wine trucks in our sample were inaccurately loaded for order fulfillment during the months of February and March 2022.	(1) We recommend that ABS conduct an assessment to determine vulnerabilities in the order fulfillment process and implement procedures to improve accuracy of the loading of trucks.	(1) Complete
		(2) Twenty-seven percent of the inventory adjustments in our sample were not investigated to identify the cause of the variance.	(2) We recommend that ABS expediate the development of written policies and procedures for investigating discrepancies in the order fulfillment process and during cycle counts.	(2) In Progress
OIG-23-006	Report of Investigation: Abuse of Purchase Cards by MCPS DOT Employees	(1) MCPS employees used issued P-Cards in violation of policy.	<p>We recommend:</p> <p>(1) MCPS conduct a reconciliation of purchase transactions made with P-Cards assigned to Ewald to ensure appropriate items have been captured in inventory.</p> <p>(2) MCPS implement the use of compliance monitoring features in the JP Morgan system to alert P-Card administrators of potential violations of policy.</p> <p>(3) MCPS ensure desk reviews of all schools and central office</p>	<p>(1) Complete</p> <p>(2) Complete</p> <p>(3) Complete</p>

Appendix: Status of Findings and Recommendations

Publication #	Report Title	Findings	Recommendations	Status (As Reported to OIG)
			<p>departments are conducted within the prescribed frequency.</p> <p>(4) Board of Education develop and implement written policies requiring rotational audits of P-Cards for central office departments and functions.</p>	(4) Complete
OIG-23-009	Food Security and Emergency Procurements, DHHS and Office of Procurement	(1) DHHS did not always comply with COMCOR requirements when requesting emergency procurements.	<p>We recommend:</p> <p>(1a) DHHS develop a process that ensures 5-day memos are drafted and disseminated to the required individuals for all emergency procurements.</p> <p>(1b) Office of Procurement develop a process to ensure receipt of 5-day memos for all approved emergency procurements.</p>	<p>(1a) Complete</p> <p>(1b) Complete</p>
		(2) The Office of Procurement does not have a formal system in place to assess emergency procurement requests.	(2) We recommend the Office of Procurement expedite the implementation of a process to document the systematic assessment of emergency procurement requests and associated approvals.	(2) Complete

Appendix: Status of Findings and Recommendations

Publication #	Report Title	Findings	Recommendations	Status (As Reported to OIG)
		(3) The Record of Procurements - Annual Report for FYs 2020 through 2022 did not include all emergency procurements.	<p>We recommend:</p> <p>(3a) The Office of Procurement implement a formal process to ensure all emergency procurements are accurately captured and reported on the Record of Procurements report.</p> <p>(3b) The Office of Procurement update and republish previous Record of Procurements reports to reflect accurate information.</p>	<p>(3a) Complete</p> <p>(3b) Complete</p>
		(4) DHHS did not always receive a signed confirmation for the receipt of goods prior to paying bulk food vendor invoices.	(4) We recommend DHHS follow established procedures to ensure goods are received prior to paying invoices.	(4) Complete
OIG-23-010	Performance Audit of Solid Waste Activities, DEP	(1) The county is applying a Consumer Price Index percentage that differs from the terms of the executed residential collection service contracts.	(1) We recommend DEP ensure exclusive residential collection service contract Consumer Price Index terms are updated to reflect actual criteria used.	(1) In Progress
		(2) Solid waste collection performance bonds do not include all the county's requirements for bonds.	(2) We recommend DEP ensure that all performance bond requirements are met and included in the bond prior to the execution of exclusive residential collection service contracts.	(2) In Progress

Appendix: Status of Findings and Recommendations

Publication #	Report Title	Findings	Recommendations	Status (As Reported to OIG)
		(3) The Solid Waste Collection fund has been operating at a deficit since FY18 resulting in noncompliance with the Fund Balance Policy and county code.	<p>We recommend:</p> <p>(3a) DEP ensure the Refuse Collection Fund is compliant with Section 48-43 of the county code by not operating in a deficit. Consideration should be given to increasing refuse collection charges, the use of a consistent standard for contractor requested price adjustments, and implementation of practices to reduce fund expenditures.</p> <p>(3b) DEP ensure that the Refuse Collection Fund reserve balance is sufficient to cover the cost to replace lost service of its largest contractor for six months to allow for continuity of service.</p>	<p>(3a) Complete</p> <p>(3b) Complete</p>
		(4) DEP Hauler-Collector Licensing information system user access is not reviewed as required by county policy.	<p>We recommend:</p> <p>(4a) DEP update the IS activity log to capture the name of the user who performed the activity.</p> <p>(4b) DEP comply with AP 6-7, Least Privilege controls by conducting annual reviews of privileged accounts to validate the need for such privileges and assigning staff to perform audits of privileged IS account functions.</p>	<p>(4a) Complete</p> <p>(4b) Complete</p>

Appendix: Status of Findings and Recommendations

Publication #	Report Title	Findings	Recommendations	Status (As Reported to OIG)
			(4c) DEP establish written procedures for complying with AP 6-7 Least Privilege controls.	(4c) Complete
		(5) A lack of separation of duties exists in the processing of hauler and collector license applications, and the reconciliation of license fee revenue.	<p>We recommend:</p> <p>(5a) DEP implement separation of duties throughout the DEP licensing process.</p> <p>(5b) DEP update Licensing program procedures to comply with AR Policy, to include separation of duties in the processing and approval of hauler and collector licenses, the issuance of Solid Waste Permit decals, and the reconciliation of license fee revenue.</p>	<p>(5a) Complete</p> <p>(5b) Complete</p>
		(6) Records over Solid Waste Permit decals were not maintained to ensure accountability and decals were not properly safeguarded.	<p>We recommend:</p> <p>(6a) DEP maintain an inventory listing of issued and unissued decals and conduct recurring reconciliations to ensure proper accountability.</p> <p>(6b) DEP properly secure unissued decals to limit unauthorized access and maintain accountability.</p> <p>(6c) DEP establish written procedures over the safeguarding of decals, to include the disposition of unissued decals after expiration.</p>	<p>(6a) Complete</p> <p>(6b) Complete</p> <p>(6c) Complete</p>

Appendix: Status of Findings and Recommendations

Publication #	Report Title	Findings	Recommendations	Status (As Reported to OIG)
OIG-23-011	Performance Audit of Purchasing Card Usage & Related Travel Expenses, OIR	(1) OIR made two P-Card purchases that were subsequently processed as reimbursements to an employee, resulting in duplicate payments.	(1) We recommend OIR recoup from the employee the reimbursements that were improperly paid for purchases made on OIR's P-Card.	(1) Complete
OIG-23-12	MCPS Payment of Traffic Citations	(1) MCPS lacks written policies or procedures governing the management of citations throughout the agency.	<p>We recommend:</p> <p>(1a) MCPS develop written policies and procedures to address traffic citations issued to employees while using MCPS vehicles.</p> <p>(1b) MCPS evaluate the underlying causes for citations received by employees and take steps to remediate contributing factors.</p>	<p>(1a) Complete</p> <p>(1b) In Progress</p>
OIG-23-015	Carryout Bag Tax, Department of Finance and DEP	(1) The county has not established a method to identify all retailers that should be remitting the carryout bag tax, potentially resulting in missed revenue and decreased program efficacy.	<p>We recommend:</p> <p>(1a) The county establish and document a process to continually identify all retailers who are required to remit carryout bag tax.</p> <p>(1b) The county proactively pursue retailers who they've identified as being subject to complying with the carryout bag tax to ensure they are educated on the requirements of the tax and charging and remitting appropriate taxes.</p>	<p>(1a) In Progress</p> <p>(1b) In Progress</p>

Appendix: Status of Findings and Recommendations

Publication #	Report Title	Findings	Recommendations	Status (As Reported to OIG)
		(2) Data limitations and shortcomings in the Bag Tax System make enforcement of the carryout bag tax problematic.	<p>We recommend:</p> <p>(2a) The county require retailers remitting for multiple locations to identify by name and address each location they are filing for and the associated number of bags and amounts collected.</p> <p>(2b) The county enforce the statutory requirement that each remittance must be accompanied by a report of all transactions that involve bags subject to the tax.</p>	<p>(2a) In Progress</p> <p>(2b) In Progress</p>
		(3) The \$100 remittance threshold makes program enforcement and assessment of penalties difficult.	(3) We recommend the county pursue legislative changes to remove the \$100 remittance threshold or administratively modify the requirement to remit payment on a defined basis.	(3) In Progress
		(4) Some county retailers are not complying with the carryout bag tax requirements.	(4) We recommend the county actively enforce the carryout bag tax law by implementing proactive strategies, to include educating retailers, conducting spot checks of retail locations, and pursuing fines for those violating the law.	(4) In Progress

Appendix: Status of Findings and Recommendations

Publication #	Report Title	Findings	Recommendations	Status (As Reported to OIG)
		(5) The county should do more to assess the impact of the carryout bag tax.	(5) We recommend the county implement routine assessments to measure the impact of the carryout bag tax on consumer behavior and litter in area waterways.	(5) In Progress

Suspect something isn't right?

If you witness activity that could be unethical, illegal, or wasteful in Montgomery County Government, contact the Office of the Inspector General.



SCAN, CALL, or EMAIL to file a report

240-777-7644 • IG@montgomerycountymd.gov

**YOUR IDENTITY
IS PROTECTED!**

Learn more at montgomerycountymd.gov/oig



Office of the Inspector General

