



OFFICE OF THE INSPECTOR GENERAL

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NEWS RELEASE

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OIG Reviews Background Investigation Compliance at Department of Recreation

Rockville, Maryland – Montgomery County Maryland Inspector General Megan Davey Limarzi announced today the release of a new Office of the Inspector General (OIG) report, [*Criminal Background Investigations*](#), OIG Publication # 22-014, detailing the results of an OIG review of policies and procedures at the Montgomery County Department of Recreation relating to criminal background checks for temporary-seasonal employees. The review was performed pursuant to the OIG’s mandate to review the effectiveness and efficiency of county programs and operations.

Temporary-seasonal workers represent approximately 94% of the Department of Recreation’s (Recreation) workforce and are the most likely to interact with minors and other vulnerable populations. Since 1986, Maryland law has required employees working in county operated recreation centers serving minors to undergo a criminal background investigation. OIG testing determined that REC conducted criminal background investigations for applicants but did not have a finalized policy governing the program and staff’s practices did not always conform to policy. The OIG also found that because of procedural deficiencies, REC continues to receive criminal history information for individuals no longer affiliated with the department.

The OIG’s review resulted in four findings and eight recommendations focused on improving compliance with policy and strengthening safety measures. The Chief Administrative Officer concurred with all of the OIG’s recommendations.

The full report can be found at the following location,
https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/OIG/Resources/Files/PDF/IGActivity/FY2022/OIG_Publication_22-014.pdf

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