



OFFICE OF THE INSPECTOR GENERAL

Megan Davey Limarzi, Esq.
Inspector General

NEWS RELEASE

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

Rockville, Maryland – Montgomery County Maryland Inspector General Megan Davey Limarzi announced today the release of a new Office of the Inspector General (OIG) memorandum of investigation, [*Disposal of Surplus Property Utilizing GovDeals.com*](#), OIG Publication # 23-002, detailing the results of an OIG investigation into Montgomery County’s use of the internet auction platform GovDeals.com (GovDeals) to dispose of surplus county property. The investigation was initiated in furtherance of the OIG’s mission to identify actions which would enhance the productivity, effectiveness, or efficiency of programs and operations of County government and independent County agencies.

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 will 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.

The full report can be found at the following location,
<https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/OIG/Resources/Files/PDF/IGActivity/FY2023/Report23-02.pdf>

Please direct all inquiries to: **Email:** ig@montgomerycountymd.gov

Phone: 240-777-8240