



OFFICE OF THE INSPECTOR GENERAL

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NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

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OIG Recommends Improved Accountability Over COVID Related Computer Purchases

Rockville, Maryland – Montgomery County Maryland Inspector General Megan Davey Limarzi announced today the release of a bulletin, [Lessons Learned from County COVID Loaner Laptop Purchases](#), providing County leadership several recommended enhancements to strengthen procurement, maintain accountability and safeguard computer equipment purchased to support COVID-19 mandated telework.

The bulletin provides five recommendations based on observations made by the office during a review of the County’s purchase of approximately 640 laptop computers at a cost of over \$643,000. The recommendations address the need to develop policies for the acquisition, control, and distribution of information technology equipment in emergency situations; using a consistent methodology to determine how many computers to order; improving control over inventory; enhancing operations and security at the receiving warehouse; and conducting advanced planning for how the purchased computers will be incorporated into the County’s inventory when operations return to a pre-COVID state.

This review and resulting recommendations are part of Inspector General Limarzi’s stated commitment to provide oversight of County COVID-19 related spending and programs. Related reviews are conducted to help the County minimize waste, and prevent abuse and fraud.

The bulletin can be found at the following location,

https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/OIG/Resources/Files/PDF/IGActivity/FY2021/Lessons_Learned_DCM_COVID_19_Loaner_Laptop_Purchases.pdf

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