



OFFICE OF THE INSPECTOR GENERAL

Megan Davey Limarzi, Esq.
Inspector General

NEWS RELEASE

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Office of Consumer Protection Maintains Good Accountability of Applicant Funds

Rockville, Maryland – Montgomery County Maryland Inspector General Megan Davey Limarzi announced today the release of an Office of the Inspector General (OIG) report, [Review of the New Home Builder and New Home Seller Program, OIG Report # 22-010](#), detailing the results of a review of the Office of Consumer Protection's (OCP) New Home Builder and New Home Seller program. The review was performed pursuant to the OIG's mandate to conduct reviews of the internal accounting practices and controls used by principal offices in the Executive Branch.

The New Home Builder and Seller program is OCPs largest source of revenue, collecting approximately \$148,190 in application fees in FY 2021. Through the review the OIG attempted to determine if the OCP followed its policies and procedures in processing registration fees related to the New Home Builder and New Home Seller programs; correctly captured builder license statuses on internal and publicly available records; if the Board of Registration for Building Contractors followed its policies and procedures when making decisions on New Home Builder and New Home Seller applications; and why the status of the county's New Home Warranty Security Fund which was eliminated from the County Code continued to be included in county regulation.

The review found that OCP properly credited accounts and that associated records contained accurate information. The review also showed that the OCP and the Board of Registration for Building Contractors do not have written policies, and documented procedures are lacking and incomplete. Additionally, the review exposed that efforts to remove mention of the New Home Warranty Security Fund from county regulations had stalled. The OIG made two recommendations related to developing policy and expediting efforts to remove references to the New Home Warranty Fund. The Chief Administrative Officer concurred with the recommendations.

The full report can be found at the following location, [OIG Report #22-10 Review of the New Home Builder and New Home Seller Program \(montgomerycountymd.gov\)](#)

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

Phone: 240-777-8240