



OFFICE OF THE INSPECTOR GENERAL

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NEWS RELEASE

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OIG Finds High Number of Traffic Tickets Issued to MCPS Vehicles

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, *MCPS Payment of Traffic Citations*, OIG Publication # 23-012, detailing the results of an OIG investigation into the Montgomery County Public Schools' (MCPS) payment of traffic citations received by employees driving agency vehicles. The investigation was predicated on observations made during a recent OIG investigation (*OIG Publication #23-06*) related to the abuse of MCPS purchase cards by MCPS Department of Transportation (DOT) employees.

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 valued at approximately \$148,500 . Using P-Cards to pay for traffic citations appears to be permissible under MCPS policy. In a majority of instances, employees reimbursed MCPS for the cost of the citations.

The OIG noted 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.

The full report can be found at the following location,
<https://montgomerycountymd.gov/OIG/Resources/Files/PDF/IGActivity/FY2023/OIG23-12.pdf>

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