



OFFICE OF THE INSPECTOR GENERAL

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NEWS RELEASE

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OIG Identifies Cost Savings by Limiting County's Use of Paper Checks

Rockville, Maryland – Montgomery County Maryland Inspector General Megan Davey Limarzi announced today the release of a report, [*Review of the County's Use of Paper Checks, OIG Report #26-19*](#), detailing the results of an OIG review of the County's use of paper checks to pay for goods and services. This review was conducted in furtherance of the OIG's duty to identify actions that would increase productivity and efficiency of County programs and operations.

The review found that although County policy allows for payments through electronic formats, such as automated clearing house (commonly known as ACH) and purchasing cards, the County's default payment method continues to be paper checks. In doing so, the County is paying almost 5 times as much per transaction in fees. In addition to higher costs, paper checks also create operational inefficiencies and exposes the County to greater risk of fraud, including duplication, alteration of checks, and theft.

The OIG recommended the Department of Finance make efforts to encourage the use of ACH payments by vendors, including phasing in a requirement to only pay vendors through ACH.

Read the full [report](#).

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