



## OFFICE OF THE INSPECTOR GENERAL

Megan Davey Limarzi, Esq.  
*Inspector General*

### NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

November 6, 2020

#### **Department of Permitting Services Employees Overpaid COVID-19 Differential Pay**

Rockville, Maryland – Montgomery County Maryland Inspector General Megan Davey Limarzi announced today the release of the results of an OIG investigation, [\*DPS Inspectors Were Overpaid COVID Differential Pay- OIG Publication # OIG-21-06\*](#), into allegations that County Department of Permitting Services (DPS) inspectors were paid COVID-19 differential pay to which they were not entitled.

The investigation found that DPS inspectors were wrongly paid COVID-19 related differential pay from approximately March 29 to August 29, 2020. The OIG observed that other County Departments may also have incorrectly allowed employees to claim COVID differential pay over the same period. Investigators were not able to calculate the extent of overpayments, because DPS was not able to provide accurate data on the number of inspections conducted by DPS inspectors, how inspections were conducted, or their duration. It is noteworthy, however, that since the OIG alerted DPS management to the issue there has been a 27% decrease (1,456 hours) in hours claimed for the costliest differential pay category, representing an approximate savings of \$14,560 per pay period.

In response to the COVID-19 emergency, Montgomery County Government instituted differential pay, widely referred to as hazard pay, for County employees required to work onsite. They established two related differential pay categories, front facing onsite and back office onsite. Employees performing work categorized as front facing would receive an additional \$10 per hour, and employees performing work categorized as back office would receive an additional \$3 per hour.

The full report, including the administration's response and concurrence with the investigation's findings can be found at the following location, [\*DPS Inspectors Were Overpaid COVID Differential Pay- OIG Publication # OIG-21-06\*](#).

Please direct all inquiries to:

**Email:** [ig@montgomerycountymd.gov](mailto:ig@montgomerycountymd.gov)

**Phone:** 240-777-8240