



## OFFICE OF THE INSPECTOR GENERAL

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*Inspector General*

### NEWS RELEASE

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#### **OIG Finds Misconduct In MCPS Purchase Card Program**

Rockville, Maryland – Montgomery County Maryland Inspector General Megan Davey Limarzi announced today the release of a new Office of the Inspector General (OIG) report of investigation, *Abuse of Purchase Cards by [Montgomery County Public Schools Department of Transportation Employees](#)*, OIG Publication # 23-006, detailing the results of an OIG investigation directed at abuses of MCPS's purchase card program. The investigation was initiated in furtherance of the OIG's mission to prevent and detect fraud, waste, and abuse in government activities; and propose ways to increase the legal, fiscal, and ethical accountability of County government departments and County-funded agencies.

The OIG analyzed the approximate \$570,000 worth of transactions that occurred from July 2020 to June 2022 through P-Cards assigned to MCPS DOT staff and found approximately \$133,000 in purchases made using P-Cards issued to the former MCPS DOT Assistant Director were prohibited by policy. The OIG and MCPS deemed that approximately \$6,500 was spent on items that were possibly for non-MCPS related use. The OIG also found that MCPS DOT management and staff regularly violated MCPS P-Card policies.

The OIG noted that MCPS took several steps to address program vulnerabilities since allegations of misconduct emerged, however opportunities still exist for them to strengthen oversight programs. The backstop against program abuses and failures is a strong audit and oversight program. The OIG found that MCPS' P-Card monitoring program is not consistently followed and P-Card audits of central office departments, like DOT, are not a part of routine audits. The OIG made similar observations in a 2016 review and recommended improved oversight. The OIG made 5 recommendations as a result of this investigation, some of which are again targeted at improving oversight of P-Cards.

The OIG pursued this investigation after consulting with the Montgomery County Police Department about their investigation of alleged misconduct by the former MCPS DOT Director and former MCPS DOT Assistant Director. The OIG shared the results of its investigation with the State's Attorney's Office.

The full report can be found at

<https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/OIG/Resources/Files/PDF/IGActivity/FY2023/OIG-23-006.pdf>

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