



# INVESTIGATIVE REPORT

Lori Torres, Inspector General

OFFICE: INDIANA BUREAU OF MOTOR VEHICLES (BMV)  
TITLE: BMV CONFLICT OF INTERESTS  
CASE ID: 2019-09-0239  
DATE: December 23, 2019

*Inspector General Chief Legal Counsel, Tiffany Mulligan, after an investigation by Inspector General Special Agent Mike Lepper, reports as follows:*

The Indiana General Assembly charged the Office of the Indiana Inspector General (OIG) with addressing fraud, waste, abuse and wrongdoing in executive branch agencies of state government. Ind. Code §4-2-7-2(b). The OIG also investigates allegations of criminal activity and Code of Ethics violations within state government. Ind. Code §4-2-7-3.

On September 26, 2019, the OIG received an anonymous complaint alleging that an Indiana Bureau of Motor Vehicles (BMV) employee (Employee), a senior leader at BMV, had been helping companies owned by the Employee's family business gain BMV contracts. The complaint alleged that a BMV employee who was involved with contracts (Contracts Employee) left the agency abruptly after he or she pushed back when the Employee sought to enter into a contract with a company that the Employee's family owns. It also alleged that the Bureau of Motor Vehicles Commission (BMVC) does not have to follow state contracting rules, and the Employee used BMVC for financial gain.

OIG Special Agent Mike Lepper conducted an investigation into this matter. During the course of the investigation, Special Agent Lepper examined documents, including BMV and BMVC contracts. He also interviewed witnesses, including the Contracts Employee and the Employee.

Special Agent Lepper first interviewed the Contracts Employee. The Contracts Employee stated that he or she is not familiar with the businesses owned by the Employee or the Employee's family. The Contracts Employee was not aware of BMV or BMVC awarding any contract to businesses owned by the Employee or the Employee's family. The Contracts Employee stated that every BMV and BMVC contract that has any substance goes through the state contracting process, which includes a scoring process and approval from the Indiana Department of Administration (IDOA). The Contracts Employee said the Employee never asked him or her to make a decision or take action outside of the rules.

The Contracts Employee also denied the allegation that he or she left BMV abruptly or left because the Employee sought to enter into a contract with the Employee's family's business. The Contracts Employee stated that he or she left BMV for personal reasons and provided thirty days' notice before leaving BMV. The Contracts Employee did not know to what the complaint was referring or why the individual reporting the complaint thought he or she left due to actions by the Employee.

Special Agent Lepper also interviewed the Employee. The Employee stated that to the Employee's knowledge none of the Employee's family's businesses or its subsidiaries conducted business with BMV or BMVC. The Employee also was unaware of any of the Employee's family's businesses providing any services that BMV or BMVC might use. The Employee provided Special Agent Lepper with a list of the companies that the Employee's family owns in whole or in part.

Special Agent Lepper did an online search for companies that appeared to have a connection with the Employee or the Employee's family. He also contacted IDOA and obtained a list of contracts that BMV and BMVC had entered into the last two years. He compared the list of contracts from IDOA with the list of companies he found online that are associated with the

Employee's family, and he compared the list with the list of companies that the Employee said his or her family owned. Special Agent Lepper found that the State did not award any of the BMV or BMVC contracts awarded in the last two years to companies on either of the lists of companies that the Employee's family owns.

Self-dealing is a serious threat to the integrity of state government. Public corruption reduces confidence in government, creates citizen apathy and inhibits robust economic development. The OIG takes such allegations seriously and investigates them thoroughly.

Special Agent Lepper's investigation found no evidence to support the allegations that the Employee used his or her position with BMV to gain contracts for the Employee's family's business. Special Agent Lepper found no connection between the businesses owned by the Employee's family and BMV or BMVC. As a result, the OIG is closing the case for insufficient cause.

Dated: December 23, 2019

APPROVED BY:

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Lori Torres". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

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Lori Torres, Inspector General