



INVESTIGATIVE REPORT

Lori Torres, Inspector General

OFFICE: INDIANA DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTION (DOC)
TITLE: DOC UNAUTHORIZED USE OF STATE PROPERTY
CASE ID: 2019-10-0252
DATE: December 23, 2019

Inspector General Chief Legal Counsel, Tiffany Mulligan, after an investigation by Inspector General Special Agent Mark Mitchell, 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 October 11, 2019, the OIG received a complaint alleging that an Indiana Department of Correction (DOC) employee (Employee), a senior leader at DOC, was “bragging about using state taxpayer funds to rent a tractor that he then uses for his own personal use.” OIG Special Agent Mark Mitchell conducted an investigation into this matter.

During the course of the investigation, Special Agent Mitchell examined documents, including monthly Purchase Card (P-Card) statements from DOC, email messages and calendar entries. He also interviewed witnesses, including the individual who reported the matter to the OIG (the Reporting Party) and the Employee.

Special Agent Mitchell first spoke to the Reporting Party to learn more about the allegations. The Reporting Party said he was not present when the Employee allegedly made the statements regarding using state funds to rent a tractor for personal use. He stated that another individual told him that he heard the statements at a meeting. The Reporting Party gave specifics

regarding the meeting, such as the approximate date and subject of the meeting; however, he said he would not provide the name of the individual who told him about the statements until checking with the individual first. The Reporting Party followed up with Special Agent Mitchell to inform him that the individual did not want the Reporting Party to provide his name or position to the OIG.

Special Agent Mitchell then reached out to the Indiana Department of Administration (IDOA) to inquire as to how IDOA issues P-Cards. He learned that IDOA had not issued a P-Card to the Employee but had issued a P-Card to another DOC employee who worked with the Employee. Special Agent Mitchell obtained monthly financial statements for the P-Card issued to the other employee for the past three years.

Special Agent Mitchell reviewed the monthly statements and asked IDOA specific questions about the statements. First, he asked about statements showing that DOC had used the P-Card to purchase gift cards. IDOA researched these transactions and found the purchases were for gas cards as part of a Community Supervision grant to incentivize parents and guardians to visit juveniles while they were in DOC facilities. IDOA said they normally prohibit agencies from using P-cards for the purchase of gift cards; however, IDOA, the State Budget Agency and the Auditor of State approved DOC's purchase of gift cards due to the unique nature of the program. Second, Special Agent Mitchell asked about monthly statements that were missing from the documentation IDOA provided him and about balances that the State had not yet paid on the statements. IDOA stated that DOC did not have any credit card activity for the months in question; therefore, IDOA had no statements for these months. IDOA also stated that it is not unusual for the State to have an unpaid balance on a monthly statement due to billing cycles and payment procedures.

Special Agent Mitchell also reviewed the Employee's emails and calendar entries. He found no emails related to renting tractors with state funds. He also found no calendar entries that corresponded with the details of the meeting the Reporting Party described where the Employee allegedly made statements regarding renting a tractor with state funds for personal use.

Finally, Special Agent Mitchell corresponded with the Employee. The Employee denied making any statements regarding renting a tractor with state funds for personal use, and he stated that he had no need to rent a tractor using state funds.

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 Mitchell's investigation found no evidence to support the allegations that the Employee made statements that he used state funds to rent a tractor for personal use. Special Agent Mitchell found no documentation that the Employee used state funds for personal use, and no witnesses came forward who were at the meeting where the Employee allegedly made the statements outlined in the complaint. As a result, the OIG is closing this case for insufficient cause.

Dated: December 23, 2019

APPROVED BY:



Lori Torres, Inspector General