



Richmond City Council

The Voice of the People

Richmond, Virginia

Office of the Inspector General

May 13, 2025

Ms. Sabrina Joy-Hog

Interim Chief Administrative Officer

City of Richmond

The Office of the Inspector General (OIG) has completed an investigation within the Parking Enforcement Office. This report presents the results of the investigation.

Authority:

1. In accordance with the Code of Virginia, § 15.2-2511.2, the Inspector General is required to investigate all allegations of fraud, waste, and abuse.
2. City of Richmond Code 2-214 authorizes the Office of the Inspector General to conduct criminal, civil, and administrative investigations related to the municipal affairs of the City.

Background:

The City of Richmond contracted numerous Parking Enforcement Officers to patrol downtown. In the areas where they patrol, there are strict rules about paid two-hour parking locations on the side of the street near several restaurants. Restaurant and business owners must park their vehicles in authorized locations, such as paying for a two-hour parking zone space, paying to park in a parking garage daily, or obtaining a monthly parking subscription to a garage in that area.

Allegations:

1. Numerous Parking Enforcement Officers allegedly committed fraud when they accepted bribes in the form of free food from business owners in exchange for not ticketing and towing their illegally parked vehicles.

Facts:

On March 19, 2025, the OIG received a complaint from an employee at a local restaurant stating that Parking Enforcement Officers in that area accepted free food in exchange for not ticketing or towing the business owner's illegally parked vehicle. The business owner allegedly promised the Parking Enforcement Officers free lunch if they allowed him to park in a two-hour parking zone without paying from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

The OIG investigators conducted surveillance in that area from March 25, 2025, to April 23, 2025. Although there were Parking Enforcement Officers ticketing vehicles during their foot patrol, OIG investigators did not observe any Parking Enforcement Officers

entering the restaurants in that area or eating lunch at any of the businesses provided by the complainant.

The OIG investigators observed the restaurant owner, who was named explicitly for abusing the two-hour parking zone outside of their facility, move their vehicle within the required timeframe and use the kiosk to ensure parking was paid for. Throughout surveillance, no violations were observed.

Analysis:

Va. Code §15.2-2511.2 states, "Fraud means the intentional deception perpetrated by an individual or individuals, or an organization or organizations, either internal or external to local government, that could result in a tangible or intangible benefit to themselves, others, or the locality or could cause detriment to others or the locality. Fraud includes a false representation of a matter of fact, whether by words or by conduct, by false or misleading statements, or by concealment of what should have been disclosed, which deceives and is intended to deceive."

The OIG investigators conducted extensive surveillance in that area and did not observe any Parking Enforcement Officers entering the restaurants or eating lunch at locations provided by the complainant. In addition, the restaurant owner in question was seen consistently moving his vehicle within the allotted two-hour time frame and using the kiosk to pay for parking.

Allegation No. 1 is **Unsubstantiated**.

Conclusion:

Based on the findings, the Office of the Inspector General concludes that this allegation is unsubstantiated.

Recommendations:

The point of contact for this report can be reached at extension 1840.

Submitted,



Foster Curtiss
Interim Inspector General

CC: Honorable Members of City Council