

## OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL

City of Albuquerque

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Melissa Santistevan Inspector General

**DATE:** November 3, 2021

**SUBJECT:** Three males arrive at the North Domingo Multigenerational Center and eat breakfast every morning.

FILE NO: 21-0041 C

INVESTIGATOR: J. Shane

STATUS: Closed

## **Informative Case Synopsis**

On September 27, 2021, the Office of Inspector General "OIG" received an anonymous 311 complaint alleging that three males arrive at the North Domingo Multigenerational Center and eat breakfast every morning. The caller did not identify a staff vehicle, logo or a date of these alleged occurrences. Upon receiving this complaint, the OIG determined that the allegations did rise to the level of potential fraud, waste or abuse, initiated a case and began a fact-finding investigation.

Pursuant to City Ordinance 2-17-2, the Inspector General's goals are to: (1) Conduct investigations in an efficient, impartial, equitable and objective manner; (2) Prevent and detect fraud, waste and abuse in city activities including all city contracts and partnerships; (3) Deter criminal activity through independence in fact and appearance, investigation and interdiction; and (4) Propose ways to increase the city's legal, fiscal and ethical accountability to insure that tax payers' dollars are spent in a manner consistent with the highest standards of local governments.

While conducting our fact-finding investigation, the OIG Investigator visited the North Domingo Baca Multigenerational Center on four (4) occasions. The first attempt was during the Balloon Fiesta and the park was crowded with spectators, so the Investigator did not go in. Each of the three additional times the investigator visited, there were no COA vehicles identified in the parking lot (absent one occasion whereas an vehicle was present but assigned to a supervisor who was). On one (1) of the occasions, the OIG entered the Center and stayed through breakfast to observe the operations and to determine if there were COA employees eating breakfast. The OIG

investigator informally engaged with Center staff and citizens to learn about the meals and services offered and to whom the Center offers.

Staff that were questioned did indicate that occasionally they see COA employees eating at the Center but that this is not a regular occurrence. In fact, he reception employee stated that they recalled a time where Solid Waste Staff had a nearby project and they did come in 'for cheap burritos' and that they filled out information to register for the access. Tis employee stated that it is extremely rare.

Another center staff stated that COA employees are permitted to eat meals at the Center if they register and pay. Center staff spoken to were not aware of COA staff who consistently attend the Center for breakfast or lunch. Center staff assisted the OIG in understanding the processes related to citizens purchasing meals and how that was accounted for in the computer system. Center staff indicated that it was rare to see City of Albuquerque employees partaking in the Center's services.

The OIG also spoke to the Director of Senior Affairs who confirmed that COA employees may eat at the Center on their allotted breaks if they have the annual membership card. It was indicated that this does in fact occur.

Based on the information obtained during our fact-finding investigation, the allegations in the complaint appear to be unfounded and as such, this case is being closed.