



OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL
City of Albuquerque

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Inspector General

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DATE: November 23, 2021

SUBJECT: Parks and Recreation employee incident in Old Town

FILE NO: 21-0087-C

INVESTIGATOR: Melissa R. Santistevan 

STATUS: Closed

Informative Case Synopsis

On November 23, 2021, the Office of Inspector General "OIG" received information alleging a City employee smoking marijuana while working in Old Town and being rude. 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. This complaint was investigated and determined to be abuse.

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 reached out to the complainant to obtain more information than what was reported on the 311 complaint. The complainant stated that they are a City employee. On the morning of October 23, 2021, the employee took a break from work and walked to Old Town. The employee encountered two city employees that were working on the flowers in Old Town, and began to ask them questions. The complainant stated that one of the employees was being rude, when the complainant requested the name of the employee. The employee responded by stating "I don't have to give you my name, B****". The complainant asked the other employee, who did identify himself as E-1 and provided the co-workers name as E-2. While leaving the premises, the City

employee smelled weed, the employee turned around and observed E-2 smoking a joint.

Through our fact-finding investigation, the Office of Inspector General has determined that both city employees are temporary hires through Rivenrock Staffing. Further inquiry with the City's Substance Abuse representative indicated that the City is unable to enforce our policy on a temporary employee. Interview with a Parks and Recreation Superintendent revealed that the two individuals were temporary hires through Rivenrock Staffing. The Superintendent stated that the employee would be reported and returned to Rivenrock Staffing on November 24, 2021.

The fact-finding investigation led to the discovery that temporary employees cannot be held accountable to the City's policies but that they can be dismissed from temporary assignment with the City.

The allegation that a City employee was smoking weed and being rude could not be proven or disproven at this time so the employee was returned to Rivenrock Staffing until further notice. A subsequent department led investigation revealed that there was insufficient evidence to substantiate the allegations and the employee was permitted to return to temporary employment on November 29, 2021.

Based on the information obtained during our fact-finding investigation, the allegations in the complaint are indeterminant due to the fact that this individual is not a City employee of record; however, the allegation was further investigated by the department and found to be unsubstantiated. The fact-finding investigation has been closed.