



Melissa Santistevan
Inspector General

OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL
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DATE: September 21, 2021

SUBJECT: City of Albuquerque (COA) vehicle spotted behind Bank of America while the employee was inside Hooters

FILE NO: 21-0032-C

INVESTIGATOR: P. Pacheco

STATUS: Closed

Informative Case Synopsis

On September 19, 2021, the Office of Inspector General “OIG” received a 311-complaint alleging a City Vehicle was parked behind Bank of America while the employee was inside Hooters. 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 not to be fraud, waste or 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 researched the vehicle number and determined that the vehicle belonged to the street maintenance division. GPS information for the vehicle was provided to the OIG and it was confirmed that the vehicle was parked at the location provided in the complaint. OIG inquired with DMD and obtained information on the driver and any work assignments for those specific days. The vehicle was assigned to a Supervisor who was on call during the time alleged in the complaint. Discussions with DMD management found that an employee who is on-call is required to be available when called out. An on-call employee is permitted to drive the vehicle during on-call status. There is no policy

prohibiting an on-call employee from carrying on with their daily plans while on-call unless or until they are called out.

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.