



# GOOD GOVERNMENT

*Committed to Honesty and Integrity in City Government*

**Kasha Graves - Editor-in-Chief**

## From the Desk of the Inspector General

### Summer 2025

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Reaching Out to the Community



**Inspector General  
Kamau C. Marable**

I recently celebrated a significant birthday that brought with it an opportunity for reflection. In my moment of contemplation, I thought about the many years I have worked in and around public service and public servants.

My journey began with a transformative experience working for Congressman John Lewis in Atlanta, Georgia. That initial exposure solidified my desire to make a positive impact. With that goal firmly in mind, I returned home to Detroit and was fortunate to join the City government as a staffer for the late Council Member Kay Everett. My next invaluable experience working in the City was for former Council President Gil Hill, where his mentorship intensified my passion for service.

After my time with the Council President, I ventured into entrepreneurship, launching a political and public affairs consulting group. We assisted numerous clients, including the successful election of former Mayor

Bing, who asked me to return to City government with him. I served as his Executive Assistant of Legislative Affairs. My current City government assignment began 12 years ago with the establishment of the OIG. My experiences have thus spanned an independent office, executive branch, and legislative branch.

My journey in government serves as a backdrop for more revelation: that there are countless good, hardworking, and dedicated individuals who choose to serve their fellow citizens, not motivated by money but by a commitment to service. Each of my experiences has provided a unique perspective on their contributions.

I have worked shoulder-to-shoulder with Council Members and their staff, who juggle daily legislative duties with essential constituent service and outreach. Their long days, evenings, and weekends are spent tirelessly ensuring that the government works effectively for their constituents. I've also experienced the Mayor's Office, where every day felt like the most intense episode of a favorite drama, with lives, livelihoods, and public safety all converging and demanding immediate resolution.

In my current position, we bear the significant responsibility of "ensuring honesty and integrity" in City government. While we confront the unfortunate instances of contractors and employees who do not uphold the public trust, I must unequivocally state that such cases are the exception, not the rule. I have consistently witnessed City employees being diligent, faithful, and remarkable. We often don't consciously acknowledge it, but these dedicated individuals care for us in countless ways, from ensuring the safety of food in restaurants, the proper functioning of traffic signals and signs, or making sure we get to school and or work on time, to even the less glamorous but equally essential task of clearing dead animals from our roads. Their commitment is the bedrock of our community. I salute all those who make their living giving citizens the best value for their hard earned tax dollars. So those who are hard-working public servants take the well-deserved bow you deserve. For those who are not, please give a thumbs up when you see a public servant out there working hard for you... they deserve it!







## DON'T GET TAKEN

Don't Let Your Money  
Travel to Someone Else's  
Bank Account

By: Jennifer Bentley

Travel fraud is a deceptive or illegal practice related to travel and tourism services. Both businesses and people can be victims of this type of fraud. Here are some common types of travel fraud to be on the lookout for.

### *Airline Tickets Scheme -*

Scammers attract customers by significantly undercutting competitors' prices by creating a fictitious website to capture a consumer's personal information, such as credit cards. They then purchase items using your card and you never receive your airline tickets.

### *Free Vacations -*

You may get an email, call, or text saying you've won a free vacation for a contest you never entered. However, scammers require you to pay fees and taxes first so your vacation is not actually free. Legitimate companies do not ask you to pay for a free prize.

### *Vacation Home Scams -*

It's easy to connect directly with property owners who advertise their vacation homes online but scammers are also trying to get your business. Some scammers take over real rental listings and advertise them as their own, so when you show up for your vacation, you find out that it is already booked by someone else. Then you have no place to stay, and your money is gone. Other scammers will make up listings for places that aren't really for rent or don't exist.

### *International Travel Documents Scam-*

Some sites claim to be able to help you get an international travel visa, passport, or other documents. However, these sites are just copycats of the U.S. Department of State website where the scammers will charge you high fees, including fees for services that are free on the U.S. Department of State's website.

### *Here are some red flags to look out for so your vacation isn't ruined.*

- Scammers may pressure you to make quick decisions.
- You are offered a "free" vacation that you must pay for.
- Scammers advertise premium vacation rentals for very cheap prices.
- You are told the only way you can pay for your vacation is by wire transfer, gift cards, or cryptocurrency.
- You are not given specific details about the travel offer such as the address of the hotel or the name of the cruise line.

Before booking your next vacation, make sure you

1. Do some research.
2. Don't pay using a wire transfer, gift cards, or cryptocurrency.
3. Don't sign or pay until you know all the terms of the deal.

You may report consumer fraud to the Michigan Attorney Generals Office at <https://secure.ag.state.mi.us/complaints/consumer.aspx> or by calling 877-765-8388.







# AROUND THE INSPECTOR GENERAL WORLD

## Questionable Expenditures of Federal Grant Funds

By: Kelechi N. Akinbosedede

The City of Albuquerque's Office of Inspector General(OIG) received an anonymous complaint regarding improper expenditure of Child Care Stabilization Grant funds by several City employees in the City's Family and Community Services Department between 2021 and 2023. The OIG's investigation found that these employees received more than \$280,000 in improper bonuses using money intended to sustain child care providers during the COVID pandemic.

The grant funds at issue came from the federal American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 for Child Care Stabilization Grants administered by the state of New Mexico to help give financial relief to childcare providers and defray unexpected business costs associated with the pandemic and to help stabilize their operations so that they may continue to provide care. However, the OIG found that the money also went to higher-ranking city staff that included the department's division's deputy director, fiscal manager, and manager. Additionally, 2 fiscal officers, 2 payroll specialists and 7 fiscal analysts received bonuses. The OIG found that twenty three of the twenty seven employees received a July 2022 bonus of either \$8,533 or \$3,878, then in December of the same year, fourteen employees received bonuses ranging from \$5,400 to \$13,000. The highest bonus of \$22,498 went to the department's division manager.



According to the OIG investigative report, the department's division manager told the OIG that no one raised any red flags on who was to get the bonuses, and they thought "it was a good opportunity to do something good for their folks." That administrator was quoted as saying that officials "thought they were protected with the guidance on allowable expenses and having key City Management overseeing and approving the disbursements."

In its recommendations, the OIG recommended the City should determine if the extra pay should be recouped or if the City's general fund should be tapped to repay the amount improperly disbursed. The OIG also recommended that the department should provide grant information and training to approvers to ensure they are aware of what expenditures are authorized by each grant. In response to the OIG report, the City contends it wasn't intentionally misusing funds and did not have direction on where to appropriate the funds.



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## Lifestyle

### Embracing the Summer Lifestyle: Sunshine, Simplicity, and Self-Care



By: April Page

As temperatures rise and days grow longer, summer offers us a unique opportunity to reset, refresh, and reconnect—with nature, loved ones, and ourselves. Whether you're planning a beach getaway, exploring your own backyard, or simply slowing down to savor the season, summer is all about intentional living and soaking up life's simple pleasures.

#### ***1. Get Outside (and Stay Safe!)***

Outdoor activities like bike riding, swimming, and golfing are great ways to enjoy the season. Even a daily walk in the park can lift your mood and boost vitamin D levels. Just don't forget the sunscreen, a hat, and plenty of water—summer fun should always come with sun safety!

#### ***2. Lighten Up—In Every Way!***

From your wardrobe to your mindset, summer is the time to let go of what weighs you down. Trade in heavy meals for fresh, colorful salads and seasonal fruits. Declutter your space, streamline your routine, and try a lighter approach to your day.

#### ***3. Carpe Diem!***

Take time to be present. Turn off your phone, read a book in a hammock, or share stories around a fire pit. These moments create lasting memories.

#### ***4. Move Your Body, Feed Your Soul***

Physical activity doesn't have to mean hitting the gym. Garden, dance, swim, or try a yoga class in the park. Any type of movement along with fresh air can energize your body and calm your mind.

#### ***5. Explore Without the Airfare***

Travel isn't always necessary to feel the thrill of discovery. Be a tourist in your own town—check out Eastern Market, concerts at The Aretha Franklin Amphitheatre, and summer festivals in Hart Plaza.

#### ***6. Reconnect***

Summer is a season of community. Host a potluck, call an old friend, or plan a family game night. Human connection is just as nourishing as sunshine and fresh air.

#### ***7. This Summer, Live Intentionally***

Let this season be a reminder that joy can be simple, health can be natural, and life—when lived in tune with nature—can be deeply fulfilling.

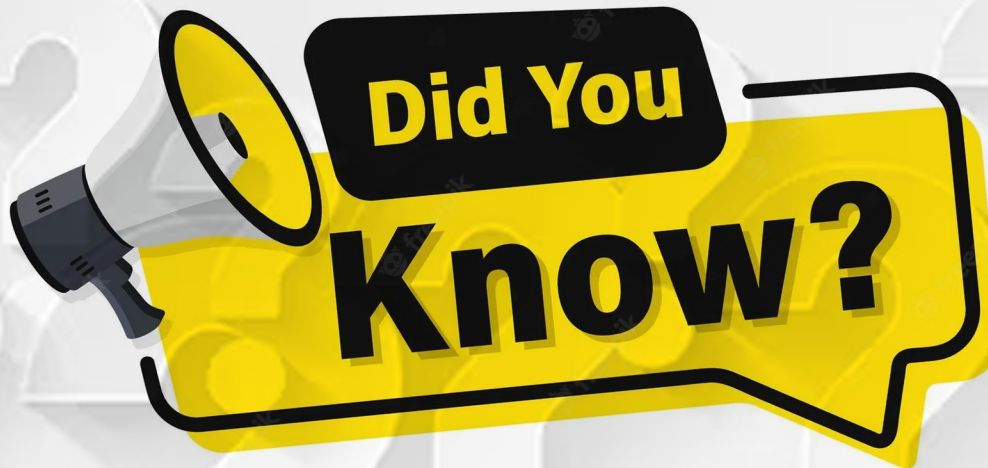




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## What's Next on the OIG Agenda?

**By: Kaniya Foster and Kasha Graves**

The OIG continues to provide information to City of Detroit residents and city employees regarding jurisdiction and the mission for the office.

The mission of the OIG is to ensure the integrity, transparency, and efficiency of City operations by conducting independent investigations, audits, and reviews. We are dedicated to identifying and addressing fraud, abuse, waste, and corruption, while promoting accountability and upholding public trust.

The 2012 Charter of the City of Detroit created and provided the OIG with independent authority "to ensure honesty and integrity in City government by rooting out waste, abuse, fraud, and corruption."

In addition to reviewing complaints in the office and conducting investigations and audits, the Inspector General and staff began going out into the community in January 2025 to connect with city residents in multiple districts. The OIG Community Coordinator Kaniya Foster reached out to community leaders to obtain their district meeting schedule for the Inspector General to attend and deliver the OIG presentation. This is only the beginning of a great journey in conveying information in Detroit communities regarding fraud, abuse, waste, and corruption.

If you would like to have the IG speak to your community group or department, contact Kaniya Foster at 313-628-2517.





If you are a Detroit resident, City of Detroit employee, contractor, or are considering doing business with the City, the Office of Inspector General will be conducting employee training as well as community events throughout Detroit. We will present information including what we do, who we investigate, and how to submit a complaint. This is an opportunity for you to ask questions and address concerns involving fraud, waste, abuse, and corruption within the City of Detroit.

**Last Quarter OIG Community Outreach Events:**

**Thursday, April 10, 2025, Joy Community Association, The Village of St. Martha's,  
15875 Joy Road, Detroit, MI 48228**

**Monday, April 14, 2025, West Outer Drive Civic Association, Westside Christian Academy,  
9540 Bramell, Detroit, MI 48239**

**Monday, April 21, 2025, District 2 Virtual Community Webinar, Office of Detroit Councilmember  
Angela Whitfield-Calloway**

**Tuesday, May 13, 2025, Berg/Lahser Community Association, First Baptist World Changers,  
22575 Eight Mile Rd, Detroit, MI 48219**

**OIG Upcoming Community Outreach Events:**

**Wednesday, October 22, 2025, Coleman A. Young Building,  
2 Woodward Ave., Detroit, MI 48226**

**We would love an opportunity to speak at your event! If you would like to schedule us for your department or community group, contact us during regular business hours at 313-628-2517. We look forward to meeting you!**