

Alleged Abuse of Position by City Council Employee

CASE# 25-0021-INV



DATE: Oct 27, 2025

**Kamau C. Marable, MA., CIG, CFE
Inspector General**

I. Summary

On September 23, 2025, the Office of Inspector General (OIG) received a complaint from former City of Detroit Ombudsman Bruce Simpson. Mr. Simpson alleged that Reggie Davis abused his position as an employee of a City Councilmember to improperly access information regarding the case management tracking system used by the Ombudsman's office. Mr. Simpson further alleged that Mr. Davis presented himself as a part of the incoming Ombudsman team, despite not yet having been interviewed for the position or having been offered the appointment.

Based on a preponderance of the evidence, the OIG finds that Mr. Davis falsely presented himself as part of the incoming Ombudsman team and abused his position by using his title to improperly access information. The OIG recommends that Mr. Davis should receive appropriate disciplinary action for abusing his position and misrepresenting himself as part of the incoming Ombudsman team.

Pursuant to Chapter 3 of Article 7.5 of the City of Detroit Charter and the OIG Administrative Hearing Rules, on October 7, 2025, the OIG provided a copy of the draft report to Mr. Davis. On October 17, 2025, Mr. Davis, through his attorney, submitted a written response to the OIG and waived his right to request an administrative hearing. In his response, Mr. Davis did not present any information that changes the OIG's findings and recommendation. The response is attached to this report in its entirety.

II. Background

The scope of the OIG's investigation is to determine whether Mr. Davis abused his position by using his position to improperly access information and whether he misrepresented himself as part of the incoming Ombudsman team.

A. Ombudsman

The City of Detroit Office of the Ombudsman is designed to provide protection for the individual citizen, businessperson, or developer, where there is a lack of follow-up or city services rendered.¹ The Ombudsman is a liaison between the City of Detroit and all persons who have a complaint or inquiry into the operation of a city department or conduct of a city employee.² In addition, the Ombudsman proposes policy and procedural changes when systemic issues are identified.³ Bruce Simpson's 10-year term as Ombudsman expired on October 4, 2025.

B. WingSwept's Case Management System

WingSwept's Case Management and Tracking System (CMTS) is a web-based case management tracking application designed and developed specifically for governmental investigative

¹ "Ombudsman", accessed October 1, 2025, <https://detroitmi.gov/government/ombudsman>.

² *Id.*

³ *Id.*

agencies.⁴ CMTS provides investigative communities with a comprehensive and configurable method for tracking cases and related information across the entire life-cycle of a case.⁵ CMTS can be used for the following purposes:

- Investigative case management software
- Case reporting tool
- Complaint management system
- Complaint software
- Complaint tracking and reporting
- Document management system
- Evidence tracking
- Fraud Complaint management system
- Investigative technology
- Records management and tracking⁶

CMTS' client base includes several federal, state and local agencies across the United States charged with investigating fraud, waste, abuse, misconduct, and criminal activity, including

- Offices of Inspector General,
- Ethics offices,
- Ombudsman offices,
- City and County government agencies fighting misconduct, fraud, and waste,
- Lottery Commissions,
- State Attorney General
- Certified Fraud Examiners,
- State Controllers, and
- Human Resources Investigators.⁷

C. WingSwept's Meetings with Mr. Davis and Mr. Pugh

On September 5, 2025, Mr. Davis contacted WingSwept requesting a price quote for using its case management system in a major city.⁸ On 2 separate occasions, he identified himself as a City of Detroit City Council employee.⁹ On 1 occasion, he stated that he is working to set up a new office of the Ombudsman.¹⁰ Mr. Davis indicated that the current Ombudsman has a contract with WingSwept and he and the incoming team are trying to compile numbers to present to the Board.¹¹ The WingSwept representative informed Mr. Davis that he cannot develop and provide quotes for new customers and will have to refer him to the sales team to assist him with the

⁴ WingSwept Information, October 1, 2025,

<https://detroitmi.gov/sites/detroitmi.localhost/files/events/2024-01/WingSwept%20Information.pdf>

⁵ *Id.*

⁶ *Id.*

⁷ *Id.*

⁸ WingSwept audio recording, September 5, 2025.

⁹ *Id.*

¹⁰ *Id.*

¹¹ *Id.*

information he requested.¹² Shortly following the call, WingSwept Government Account Executive Louis Cherry called Mr. Davis to assist with his inquiries.¹³ Mr. Davis requested a meeting for the following week so that his “Chief of Staff” would be in attendance.¹⁴ Mr. Davis did not name the Chief of Staff during this call.

On September 9, 2025, Mr. Cherry called Mr. Davis on Microsoft Teams.¹⁵ Mr. Davis and his “Chief of Staff” Charles Pugh¹⁶ were in attendance. Mr. Pugh stated that the Ombudsman’s tenure ends on October 4th and he is part of the incoming group.¹⁷ He stated that they are looking at the technology that the Ombudsman uses and whether they should keep it or amend it going forward.¹⁸ Mr. Davis informed Mr. Cherry that he is part of the incoming team and requested information on the pricing and capabilities of CMTS.¹⁹

Based on the information he received from Mr. Davis and Mr. Pugh, Mr. Cherry presented detailed information on what CMTS can be used for and provided pricing for the existing contract with the Ombudsman.²⁰ Mr. Davis and Mr. Pugh asked several follow-up questions on capabilities and pricing for CMTS. Mr. Cherry suggested the Director of Public Safety Information Technology Rob Millender and Technology Services Manager Amber Easton are knowledgeable about CMTS and encouraged them to follow-up with them for additional information.²¹ He also suggested that WingSwept Account Executive Samuel Elmore could contact them to provide more detailed information on the current contract structure and provide options as he takes over the office of the Ombudsman.²²

Following the discussion, Mr. Cherry sent an email to Mr. Elmore, copying Mr. Davis and Mr. Pugh.²³ He introduced them as part of the Ombudsman incoming staff who are seeking information on how CMTS could support their work during the transition.²⁴ Mr. Cherry summarized the pricing and capabilities information he shared with Mr. Davis and Mr. Pugh.²⁵ He suggested that Mr. Elmore should take over the conversation and provide the detailed guidance they are seeking.²⁶

¹² *Id.*

¹³ *Id.*

¹⁴ *Id.*

¹⁵ WingSwept Microsoft Teams video recording, September 9, 2025.

¹⁶ Charles Pugh was elected Detroit City Council president in 2009, serving from 2010 until 2013.

¹⁷ *Id.*

¹⁸ *Id.*

¹⁹ *Id.*

²⁰ *Id.*

²¹ *Id.*

²² *Id.*

²³ Email from WingSwept Government Account Executive Louis Cherry to WingSwept Government Account Executive Samuel Elmore, RE: CMTS Conversation Follow Up, dated September 9, 2025.

²⁴ *Id.*

²⁵ *Id.*

²⁶ *Id.*

In addition, Mr. Elmore contacted Mr. Simpson to inform him of the communications with Mr. Davis and Mr. Pugh.²⁷ Mr. Simpson was not aware of these communications and advised them to discontinue any further communications with them.²⁸ On September 10, 2025, Mr. Elmore sent an email correspondence to Mr. Simpson and Assistant Ombudsman Anna Ferrante advising them that per their instructions, WingSwept would stop all communications with Mr. Davis and Pugh.²⁹ He mentioned that WingSwept was under the impression that they were communicating with a new agency before Mr. Davis and Mr. Pugh indicated that they were with the Ombudsman.³⁰ Mr. Elmore provided the Ombudsman with the recordings of the phone calls WingSwept had with Mr. Davis and Mr. Pugh.³¹

III. Analysis and Findings

The OIG confirmed that Mr. Davis is currently a staff member of City Councilmember Mary Waters. During the application process and prior to the interviews for the Ombudsman position, Mr. Davis contacted WingSwept to gather information on an existing CMTS contract. The OIG obtained 2 audio recordings and 1 video recording of the communication between Mr. Davis, Mr. Pugh, and WingSwept. Based on a review of the recordings, it is clear that Mr. Davis was on the call and he identified himself as a City Council employee and as part of the incoming Ombudsman team. In addition, Mr. Davis identified Mr. Pugh as his Chief of Staff.

Mr. Davis made a misrepresentation when he stated that he was part of the incoming Ombudsman team. Based on this misrepresentation and his position as a City Council employee, WingSwept provided information to Mr. Davis that was not readily accessible to the public.

According to an interview with the Detroit News, Mr. Davis stated "I was doing some research to show how certain programs would work in our City through the Ombudsman's office. And we were allowing them to know that we were going up for an interview, and if we won the interview, we would be reaching out to them, possibly to bring in their product."³² In addition, Mr. Davis said he sought Mr. Pugh's advice "because he was once council president and he used the product during his term."³³ Please note that WingSwept did not have a contract with the City of Detroit until 2017, when the OIG and Ombudsman contracted for its CMTS. Mr. Pugh had left the City Government by that time.

IV. Conclusion

Based on a preponderance of the evidence, the OIG finds that Mr. Davis falsely presented himself as part of the incoming Ombudsman team and abused his position by using his title to improperly access information.

²⁷ CMTS Support Ticket Email from WingSwept Government Account Executive Samuel Elmore to Ombudsman Bruce Simpson and Assistant Ombudsman IV Anna Ferrante, dated September 19, 2025.

²⁸ *Id.*

²⁹ *Id.*

³⁰ *Id.*

³¹ *Id.*

³² "Detroit ombudsman examining emails involving disgraced Detroit city leader Charles Pugh", The Detroit News, September 19, 2025.

³³ *Id.*

V. Recommendation

The OIG recommends that Mr. Davis should receive appropriate disciplinary action for abusing his position and misrepresenting himself as part of the incoming Ombudsman team.

VI. Evidence Reviewed

a. Interviews

- i. Bruce Simpson

b. Documents

- i. CMTS FAQ
- ii. Detroit News Articles
- iii. Email correspondence from the Ombudsman
- iv. WingSwept audio recordings
- v. WingSwept Microsoft Teams meeting video recording

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10.17.2025

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RE: Notice of Representation and Response to OIG Memorandum (25-0021-INV)

Dear Inspector General Marable:

Our office represents Reggie Davis, Community Liaison to the Detroit City Council. This response to the OIG memorandum dated October 7th, 2025 is submitted in accordance with the OIG's instructions and is intended to become part of the final memorandum record. This letter is submitted in lieu of hearing.

Mr. Davis's communication with WingSwept was part of a good-faith effort to understand available case-management software options in preparation for a possible appointment as Legislative Ombudsman. He requested publicly available or standard pricing information, not internal City data. No confidential records, credentials, or citizen information were requested or accessed. WingSwept's communications were routine vendor interactions; no proprietary or internal City data was compromised or disclosed.

Mr. Davis acknowledges that his statement that he was part of the "incoming" Ombudsman staff was imprecise. Mr. Davis was engaging in what he thought was reasonable due diligence in the event that he would be part of the incoming group. Mr. Davis used his City-issued contact information, and never claimed to hold authority within the Ombudsman's office.

The phrase "improper access to information" suggests a misuse of restricted materials. The record shows otherwise. The OIG itself acknowledges that the only information shared by WingSwept was "not readily accessible to the public," not confidential or privileged.

There is no evidence that Mr. Davis (1) accessed City systems, (2) obtained non-public records, or (3) used any information to gain personal or political advantage. Consequently, the

elements of “abuse of authority” under the City Charter are not met. At most, the communications reflected over-enthusiastic preparation for an anticipated role; this is conduct inconsistent with any corrupt or self-serving motive.

Given these facts, we respectfully request that the OIG consider the following:

1. Amend or clarify the draft memorandum to reflect that no confidential or protected City information was accessed; and
2. Modify its conclusion to describe Mr. Davis’s actions as an error of judgment or misunderstanding, rather than “abuse of authority.”

Mr. Davis’s actions were motivated by diligence and preparation, not deceit. Mr. Davis acknowledges his error to the extent that he communicated that he was an “incoming” member, rather than a prospective incoming member. We therefore respectfully request that the OIG reconsider its characterization of Mr. Davis’ conduct and decline to recommend formal discipline.

Sincerely,

Marcus Baldori
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baldorim@gmail.com

cc: Reggie Davis