



THE MARYLAND-NATIONAL CAPITAL PARK AND PLANNING COMMISSION



Office of the Inspector General • 6611 Kenilworth Avenue • Riverdale, Maryland 20737
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MEMORANDUM OF LIMITED INVESTIGATION

Date: October 19, 2022

To: Wanda Ramos, Deputy, Area Operations
Prince George's County Department of Parks and Recreation

Bill Sheehan, Acting Chief
Youth and Countywide Sports Division

From: Natalie Beckwith, Assistant Inspector General 
Renee Kenney, Inspector General 

Re: Payment to Franchise League Umpires
PGC-008-2023

A Memorandum of Limited Investigation describes specific issues or complaints received and the outcomes of limited procedures undertaken during a preliminary inquiry conducted by the Office of the Inspector General (OIG). Limited Investigations are not conducted per Government Auditing Standards or Principles and Standards for Offices of Inspector General.

Concern/Allegation(s): On September 12, 2021, Prince George's Department of Parks and Recreation's management, forwarded an email they received from [REDACTED], [REDACTED] DC/DMV Men's Fast-Pitch Softball League indicating an urgent concern within the league. Upon the OIG's discussion with [REDACTED], it was alleged that the Commission had neglected to pay fees owed to league umpires for their referee services.

Background/Investigation: The DC/DMV Men's Fast-Pitch Softball League is a Commission franchise sports league. Under the Commission's Youth and Countywide Sports umbrella, this league participated in a softball league during the spring of 2022. Six teams were registered to participate at a fee of \$900 per team. In exchange for the registration fee, the Commission typically supplies ballfield access, officials, balls and trophies. However, there is no written support that documents these arrangements. In the past the Commission has provided the beforementioned services with its franchise leagues via an undocumented verbal agreement. Currently, there are no written procedures in place that govern the specific details of franchise league activities or deliverables.

The OIG interviewed the following individuals to gain more insight regarding [REDACTED] allegations:

- George Jacobs – Commissioner, DC/DMV Men’s Fast-Pitch Softball League
- Lamont McKenzie – Umpire, DC/DMV Men’s Fast-Pitch Softball League
- William Sheehan – Acting Division Chief, Youth and Countywide Sports Division
- Jose Segura – League Administrator – Youth and Countywide Sports Division

[REDACTED], [REDACTED] stated that [REDACTED] [REDACTED] informed him that there was a shortage of fast-pitch umpires and that he [REDACTED] could secure umpires on his own and that the Commission would take care of it. To that end, [REDACTED] secured umpire officials privately under the umbrella of the Mid Potomac Officials Association via verbal agreement. Mid Potomac Officials Association is an independent sports official organization. According to [REDACTED], he provided payment to the umpires out of his own pocket and is requesting that the Commission reimburse him for those expenses, as he was under the impression that the Commission was responsible for all umpire expenses incurred.

[REDACTED], league umpire contracted with Mid Potomac Officials Association, stated he submitted invoices for his DC/DMV Men’s Fast-Pitch Softball League umpire services and received one payment from the Association. Please see **Exhibit A** for a copy of the payment documentation. He maintains that additional payments for his services are currently outstanding. The OIG asked [REDACTED] to forward a copy of his contract with the Mid Potomac Officials Association. To date no supporting contract documentation has been submitted.

The OIG also reviewed text and email messages between [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] and noted language in one of [REDACTED] texts that could be misconstrued and interpreted as the Commission’s consent to facilitate payment. However, in a secondary text message, [REDACTED] clearly states that Mid Potomac Officials Association is responsible for any payments due to the umpires. Please see **Exhibit B** for a copy of the text message.

No representatives from the Mid Potomac Officials Association were interviewed during the course of this review.

OIG Conclusion/Recommendations: Although not explicitly stated or documented the Commission does allow for the procurement of outside vendor goods and services for franchise leagues. These items may include game officials, sporting goods, etc. However, the Commission is not responsible for payment of those items, as they are not procured by the Commission and do not fall under its administrative purview.

More specifically, with regard to [REDACTED] allegation, the OIG reasonably concludes the Commission is not responsible for any payments to umpires who provided referee services for the DC/DMV Men’s Fast-Pitch Softball League, as the agreement for those services was between the Softball League and the Officials Association.

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The OIG does however recommend that the Youth and Countywide Sports Division create written policies and procedures to govern the activities of franchise leagues. At minimum, these policies and procedures should outline Commission deliverables to league teams and protocols for securing third-party services.

Cc:

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PAYMENTS TO [REDACTED] EXHIBIT A
FROM MID POTOMAC OFFICIALS ASSOCIATION

EXHIBIT B
TEXT MESSAGES BETWEEN [REDACTED] AND [REDACTED]