

Department of Public Works

Response

Case # 25-0004-I



CITY OF BALTIMORE
MAYOR BRANDON M. SCOTT

MEMORANDUM

8/1/2025

Ms. Isabel Mercedes Cumming, Inspector General
Office of the Inspector General
100 North Holliday Street, Suite 640
Baltimore, MD 21202

RE: DPW Response to OIG Case #25-0004-I Referral, dated July 18, 2025

Inspector General Cumming:

This correspondence will serve as the Department of Public Works' (DPW) official management response to OIG Referral #25-0004-I, (the "Referral") dated July 18, 2025. The Referral references information that the Office of the Inspector General (OIG) learned after conducting a follow-up visit to the Department of Public Works' (DPW) Eastern Sanitation Yard (Bowley's Lane) and Western Sanitation Yard (Cherry Hill). The OIG conducted the site visit beginning at approximately 6 a.m. on June 24, 2025, during the Code Red Extreme Heat Alert issued by the Health Commissioner for June 22 through June 26, 2025. The OIG also conducted a follow-up visit to Bowley's Lane on July 16, 2025. The OIG documented observations at both sites in the following report, noting marked improvements since last summer.

DPW thanks the Office of the Inspector General for being a valued partner in progress. Our team remains deeply committed to fostering a culture of workplace safety and operational excellence.

In alignment with our safety standards, we have instituted regular wellness checks to safeguard our employees during extreme heat conditions. These assessments occur at least every two hours when the heat index reaches 90°F, and hourly when it exceeds 100°F. Our people leaders also carry water, electrolytes, and ice in their vehicles to replenish the supplies our crews use throughout the day. We have also established a consistent delivery schedule for ice and water to ensure that supplies remain stocked and are easily available.

To further strengthen our responsiveness, our daily operations calls serve as a forum to reinforce the importance of promptly communicating any concerns regarding water availability, ice supply, or HVAC performance to our leadership team. Additionally, we continue to promote our Speak Up platform, providing employees with an anonymous and confidential channel to report any workplace concerns or issues.

We value your collaboration and look forward to making continued strides together in promoting a safe and supportive work environment.

Thank you for bringing this matter to my attention. If you have any further questions regarding this correspondence, please do not hesitate to contact [REDACTED]

Best Regards,



Matthew W. Garbark
Director