

# **Office of the Inspector General**

## **Response Case**

**# 25-0037-I**



February 25, 2026

### **Office of the Inspector General Response to Mayor's Chief of Staff**

The Office of the Inspector General (OIG) is responding to the February 20, 2026, response provided by the Mayor's Office Chief of Staff John David Merrill. The OIG's P-Card and expenditure investigation began in April 2025, and the report was provided to the Mayor's Office on February 6, 2026. It is important to note that the City Solicitor's recent "legal analysis" that the Office of the Inspector General is subject to the Maryland Public Information Act would have limited this investigation.

The OIG notes the Mayor's Office "concedes" that 336 P-Card transactions totaling \$167,455.06 were missing waivers and approval from the Bureau of Procurement (BOP). The Mayor's Office claims that "all transactions and expenditures raised in this report were made to further legitimate governmental purposes." The investigation cannot corroborate this claim because the waivers were not submitted with a purchase justification, thereby circumventing BOP's approval or denial process.

Responsible stewardship of City resources is one of five core pillars for the Mayor's second term.<sup>1</sup> Despite the Mayor's Office's 8-page response, there is no explanation offered regarding the Mayor's Office's purchases of food and beverages at Orioles and Ravens games with taxpayer dollars. The investigation found the Mayoral Office spent \$52,588.78 at these games purchasing food and beverages. Due to the lack of response from the Mayor's Office detailing how these purchases benefit taxpayers, the OIG is making a recommendation for the Mayor's Office to review the use of taxpayer funds for food and beverages at sporting events.

The OIG report noted that BOP approved Mayor's Office staff appreciation events but denied the same to other City agencies. Regarding the purchase of food for staff, the Mayor's Office wrote that "employees are frequently required to work long hours, including late nights, early morning, or during typical lunch hours" and "ensuring that they have adequate access to food and sustenance helps support on behalf of residents." During the same timeframe of this invoice review (July 2022 to November 2025), the OIG completed investigations that found [Department of Public Works solid waste workers](#) lacked access to water and Gatorade during summer months.

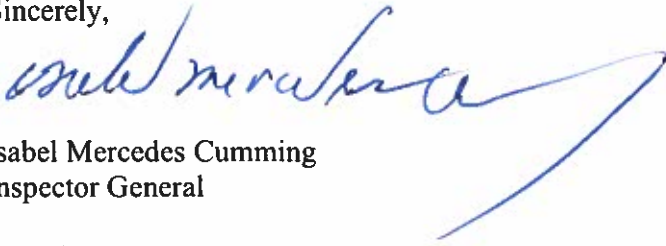
The OIG also reviewed Workday expenditures (supplier invoices) for the Mayor's Office and noted these expenditures have increased from \$2.9 million in 2023 to \$4.4 million in 2025 as referenced in Graph 1 and Table 11 in the report. This included \$568,413.48 spent in food/meal costs. Regarding food and costs for internal celebrations, showers, and flowers, staff in other City agencies often bear the cost themselves by collecting personal contributions, rather than using taxpayer money. Based on the report and the Mayor's Office response, the OIG maintains that payments for food at sporting events, internal meals, and other internal celebratory events are questionable uses of taxpayer funds. The OIG has noted the lack of uniformity across City agencies regarding discretionary expenses, which could lead to the perception of inequity between the Mayor's Office and other City agencies.

The Mayor's Office alleged transactions were selectively chosen in the report, so the OIG included all P-Card 2's food/meal expenditures to be more transparent (Exhibit 1).

---

<sup>1</sup> [Brandon M. Scott | Baltimore City](#)

Sincerely,



Isabel Mercedes Cumming  
Inspector General

Exhibits

CC: Hon. Brandon M. Scott, Mayor of Baltimore City  
Hon. Zeke Cohen, Baltimore City Council President  
Hon. Bill Henry, Baltimore City Comptroller  
Honorable Members of the Baltimore City Council  
Hon. Ebony Thompson, Baltimore City Solicitor  
Faith P. Leach, Chief Administrative Officer  
Michael Mocksten, Director of Finance

**Exhibits**

1. Food/Meal Expenditures for P-Card 2

**REPORT FRAUD, WASTE AND ABUSE**

HOTLINE: 443-984-3476 800-417-0430 EMAIL: [OIG@BALTIMORECITY.GOV](mailto:OIG@BALTIMORECITY.GOV) WEBSITE: [OIG.BALTIMORECITY.GOV](http://OIG.BALTIMORECITY.GOV)

*This public synopsis is only a summary of a more comprehensive report of investigation submitted to the appropriate City management official*

**CARD 2 Food Transactions (7/1/22-11/17/25) Sourced from Workday**

Topic	FOOD
-------	------

Food Vendor	Sum of Transactions
<b>LEVY RESTURANTS (Ravens/Orioles)</b>	<b>\$ 39,471.84</b>
4/7/2023	\$ 763.71
4/24/2023	\$ 334.16
5/29/2023	\$ 746.45
5/30/2023	\$ 542.74
7/15/2023	\$ 654.77
7/18/2023	\$ 727.56
8/4/2023	\$ 562.55
9/26/2023	\$ 16.27
9/27/2023	\$ 359.10
10/7/2023	\$ 809.09
10/8/2023	\$ 781.45
3/28/2024	\$ 624.50
3/31/2024	\$ 560.70
4/1/2024	\$ 349.10
4/14/2024	\$ 391.12
4/26/2024	\$ 697.67
5/10/2024	\$ 557.60
5/11/2024	\$ 549.51
5/31/2024	\$ 539.92
6/14/2024	\$ 292.84
6/24/2024	\$ 680.44
6/25/2024	\$ 385.36
6/27/2024	\$ 382.67
6/28/2024	\$ (296.99)
6/29/2024	\$ 545.73
8/7/2024	\$ 532.56
8/10/2024	\$ 595.14
8/13/2024	\$ 418.97
8/17/2024	\$ 807.04
8/28/2024	\$ (21.91)
9/7/2024	\$ 462.39
9/13/2024	\$ 376.81
9/15/2024	\$ 1,010.60
9/20/2024	\$ 458.21
9/22/2024	\$ 437.41
9/30/2024	\$ 1,000.66

10/2/2024	\$ 767.05
10/17/2024	\$ (100.00)
11/20/2024	\$ 4,116.57
12/6/2024	\$ 2,559.20
12/26/2024	\$ 1,520.82
1/8/2025	\$ 852.18
1/17/2025	\$ 1,042.02
3/31/2025	\$ 419.84
4/23/2025	\$ (1,074.40)
5/8/2025	\$ 1,026.30
6/2/2025	\$ 3,212.04
6/27/2025	\$ 521.05
7/11/2025	\$ 594.24
7/25/2025	\$ 368.78
7/28/2025	\$ 416.49
8/1/2025	\$ 615.85
8/5/2025	\$ 615.85
8/23/2025	\$ 477.52
8/28/2025	\$ 853.71
9/7/2025	\$ 526.47
9/10/2025	\$ 415.54
9/11/2025	\$ 497.51
10/1/2025	\$ 591.31
<b>DAVID AND DADS</b>	<b>\$ 18,219.13</b>
2/23/2023	\$ 392.00
2/24/2023	\$ 348.00
3/10/2023	\$ 460.00
3/16/2023	\$ 243.50
3/24/2023	\$ 262.30
4/13/2023	\$ 609.75
4/27/2023	\$ 303.60
5/9/2023	\$ 862.20
5/12/2023	\$ 518.25
6/9/2023	\$ 236.35
7/17/2023	\$ 598.50
9/18/2023	\$ 648.25
9/19/2023	\$ 738.00
11/3/2023	\$ 262.00
11/7/2023	\$ 376.30
12/1/2023	\$ 737.00
12/6/2023	\$ 331.00
1/2/2024	\$ 370.20
1/25/2024	\$ 1,042.00
1/26/2024	\$ 188.00

2/9/2024	\$ 289.85
2/27/2024	\$ 310.50
2/29/2024	\$ 829.50
3/1/2024	\$ 358.75
4/8/2024	\$ 468.50
6/4/2024	\$ 557.00
6/5/2024	\$ 557.00
6/27/2024	\$ 177.50
7/22/2024	\$ 2,003.00
10/21/2024	\$ 877.10
11/20/2024	\$ 125.87
3/21/2025	\$ 793.00
5/28/2025	\$ 451.66
8/19/2025	\$ 490.54
9/12/2025	\$ 402.16
<b>JAY'S CATERING</b>	<b>\$ 13,383.46</b>
4/20/2023	\$ 287.13
6/13/2023	\$ 562.86
7/11/2023	\$ 1,791.88
8/31/2023	\$ 168.15
9/28/2023	\$ 766.94
10/30/2023	\$ 513.80
11/16/2023	\$ 670.97
12/4/2023	\$ 1,467.45
12/19/2023	\$ 1,003.36
12/27/2023	\$ 1,017.52
1/22/2024	\$ 792.68
1/31/2024	\$ 1,214.98
2/12/2024	\$ 1,094.24
2/22/2024	\$ 1,067.11
2/23/2024	\$ 964.39
<b>SAMS CLUB</b>	<b>\$ 10,029.06</b>
8/2/2024	\$ 442.80
9/20/2024	\$ 883.32
9/28/2024	\$ 490.52
11/27/2024	\$ 214.04
1/30/2025	\$ 158.38
2/23/2025	\$ 158.58
3/6/2025	\$ 488.54
3/16/2025	\$ 310.36
4/6/2025	\$ 206.07
4/19/2025	\$ 119.90
4/21/2025	\$ 405.41
4/30/2025	\$ 101.33

5/1/2025	\$ 194.86
5/24/2025	\$ 772.01
5/31/2025	\$ 279.47
6/20/2025	\$ 1,057.34
7/1/2025	\$ 525.64
7/2/2025	\$ 506.18
7/6/2025	\$ 128.03
8/3/2025	\$ 288.92
8/4/2025	\$ 734.27
8/7/2025	\$ 35.90
9/16/2025	\$ 968.72
10/25/2025	\$ 252.63
10/29/2025	\$ 170.72
11/8/2025	\$ 135.12
<b>ARAMARK (Ravens)</b>	<b>\$ 6,530.71</b>
8/16/2023	\$ 328.19
9/11/2023	\$ 453.74
9/24/2023	\$ 592.85
10/7/2023	\$ 265.29
10/22/2023	\$ 453.32
11/5/2023	\$ 471.76
11/12/2023	\$ 407.85
11/16/2023	\$ 634.40
12/10/2023	\$ 567.81
12/19/2023	\$ (0.60)
12/31/2023	\$ 584.41
1/6/2024	\$ 567.00
1/20/2024	\$ 579.39
1/28/2024	\$ 625.30
<b>NEXT PHAZE CAFÉ</b>	<b>\$ 6,529.01</b>
5/17/2023	\$ 576.00
12/18/2023	\$ 2,414.41
2/26/2024	\$ 382.80
2/29/2024	\$ 1,371.00
3/5/2024	\$ 347.00
4/8/2024	\$ 886.80
8/23/2024	\$ 551.00
<b>XQUISITE CATERING</b>	<b>\$ 4,038.67</b>
12/1/2022	\$ 1,407.00
3/22/2023	\$ 1,613.00
3/24/2023	\$ 1,018.67
<b>MERA KITCHEN COLLECTIVE</b>	<b>\$ 3,550.17</b>
3/13/2023	\$ 516.57
6/9/2023	\$ 3,033.60

<b>CANOPY BY HILTON BALTIMORE</b>	<b>\$ 2,951.00</b>
12/8/2022	\$ 1,000.00
12/9/2022	\$ 1,951.00
<b>AA GLOBAL LLC</b>	<b>\$ 2,944.00</b>
11/17/2023	\$ 656.00
11/28/2023	\$ (200.00)
12/1/2023	\$ 468.00
4/2/2024	\$ 700.00
11/22/2024	\$ 600.00
11/26/2024	\$ 540.00
12/11/2024	\$ 180.00
<b>ON THE BORDER</b>	<b>\$ 2,697.49</b>
4/11/2024	\$ 962.95
10/10/2024	\$ 1,084.30
10/18/2024	\$ 650.24
<b>CFG BANK ARENA</b>	<b>\$ 2,212.80</b>
2/28/2025	\$ 717.60
3/1/2025	\$ 717.60
3/2/2025	\$ 777.60
<b>AMAZON</b>	<b>\$ 2,145.06</b>
11/22/2023	\$ 311.32
3/14/2024	\$ 1,373.98
8/14/2024	\$ 18.94
9/25/2024	\$ 60.23
9/27/2024	\$ 17.22
9/28/2024	\$ 17.49
10/15/2024	\$ 215.56
12/13/2024	\$ 39.18
1/30/2025	\$ 42.14
4/17/2025	\$ 37.99
4/20/2025	\$ (37.99)
5/2/2025	\$ 49.00
<b>POPSATIONS POPCORN</b>	<b>\$ 2,115.00</b>
10/31/2023	\$ 149.00
12/1/2023	\$ 1,146.00
12/12/2023	\$ 820.00
<b>FRESH BAKERY</b>	<b>\$ 1,729.00</b>
11/3/2023	\$ 376.40
12/18/2023	\$ 411.20
4/8/2024	\$ 420.20
5/29/2024	\$ 60.00
9/3/2024	\$ 77.00
10/24/2024	\$ 91.20
3/31/2025	\$ 217.00

7/7/2025	\$ 76.00
<b>NANCY BY SNAC CAFE - STATION NORTH AR</b>	<b>\$ 1,550.00</b>
2/8/2023	\$ 255.00
2/24/2023	\$ 430.00
3/23/2023	\$ 430.00
4/3/2023	\$ 435.00
<b>JUDY'S ISLAND GRILL</b>	<b>\$ 1,398.80</b>
4/23/2025	\$ 752.55
4/26/2025	\$ 646.25
6/19/2025	\$ 45.01
7/15/2025	\$ (45.01)
<b>MR. OMELETTE CATERERS</b>	<b>\$ 1,174.00</b>
11/21/2023	\$ 1,174.00
<b>HOMESLYCE MT</b>	<b>\$ 1,170.62</b>
10/25/2024	\$ 145.07
1/16/2025	\$ 127.97
5/25/2025	\$ 477.64
5/26/2025	\$ 307.18
6/17/2025	\$ 112.76
<b>KDW LLC</b>	<b>\$ 1,032.50</b>
1/9/2024	\$ 1,032.50
<b>SHAREEF'S GRILL</b>	<b>\$ 775.00</b>
9/27/2023	\$ 775.00
<b>BIDDLE ST CATERING</b>	<b>\$ 687.96</b>
8/1/2023	\$ 387.09
8/4/2023	\$ 300.87
<b>MOSIE'S KNISH SHOP</b>	<b>\$ 604.70</b>
4/12/2024	\$ 604.70
<b>CODETTA BAKE SHOP</b>	<b>\$ 542.50</b>
7/23/2024	\$ 542.50
<b>DEBAUFRE BAKERIES IN</b>	<b>\$ 540.00</b>
7/26/2023	\$ 540.00
<b>SEVEN MILE MARK</b>	<b>\$ 537.20</b>
12/5/2023	\$ 125.63
12/12/2023	\$ 306.57
7/25/2024	\$ 105.00
<b>POPPED REPUBLIC</b>	<b>\$ 531.00</b>
7/25/2024	\$ 531.00
<b>POYOTECA BALTIMO</b>	<b>\$ 508.00</b>
5/28/2025	\$ 508.00
<b>HOODFELLAS KITCH</b>	<b>\$ 500.00</b>
5/17/2023	\$ 500.00
<b>MIDNITE CONFECTIONS</b>	<b>\$ 474.00</b>
7/24/2024	\$ 474.00

<b>BJS WHOLESALE</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>246.56</b>
12/6/2022	\$	246.56
<b>CHICKEN RICO</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>225.00</b>
6/4/2024	\$	180.00
9/4/2024	\$	45.00
<b>ACCENTS SERENGETI</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>130.00</b>
7/24/2024	\$	130.00
<b>AU BON PAIN</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>117.12</b>
11/7/2022	\$	117.12
<b>CHICK FIL A</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>79.34</b>
8/4/2023	\$	79.34
<b>WHOLE FOODS</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>5.98</b>
11/6/2025	\$	5.98
<b>Grand Total</b>		<b>\$131,376.68</b>