



**OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL**  
*City of Albuquerque*

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Inspector General

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**Investigative Informative Case Synopsis**

**FILE NO:** 22-0132-C

**SUBJECT MATTER:** Planning vehicle wasting gas and idling

**STATUS:** Final

**INVESTIGATOR:** P. Pacheco

DocuSigned by:  
*Melissa R. Santistevan*  
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**MELISSA SANTISTEVAN**  
**INSPECTOR GENERAL**  
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August 5, 2022  
**Date of Completion**

DocuSigned by:  
*C. Jack Emmons*  
209E8977EA708EA  
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**C. JACK EMMONS, VICE CHAIR**  
**ACCOUNTABILITY IN GOVERNMENT**  
**OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE**

8/29/2022 | 1:08 PM PDT  
**Date of Approval**

**DISTRIBUTION:**

- Honorable Mayor**
- President City Council**
- Chief Administrative Officer**
- City Councilors**
- Director Council Services**
- City Attorney**
- Department Director**
- Members, Accountability and Government Oversight Committee**
- File**

## **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

According to City Ordinance 2-17-2, the Inspector General's goals are to (1) Conduct investigations in an efficient, impartial, equitable, and objective manner; (2) Prevent and detect fraud, waste, and abuse in city activities including all city contracts and partnerships; (3) Deter criminal activity through independence in fact and appearance, investigation and interdiction; and (4) Propose ways to increase the city's legal, fiscal and ethical accountability to insure that tax payers' dollars are spent in a manner consistent with the highest standards of local governments.

On July 11, 2022, the Office of Inspector General (OIG) received a complaint stating that a vehicle was idling and wasting gas and no one was in the vehicle. The complainant identified the vehicle number and the OIG was able to identify the City department and the employee the vehicle was assigned to. The vehicle is equipped with GPS and data was pulled to determine the vehicle's information for the day in question.

While conducting our fact-finding investigation, the OIG Investigator reviewed the information provided by the complainant, reviewed city ordinances related to City vehicle usage, reviewed the vehicle's GPS data, and gathered information from Planning Department employees.

As a result of the investigation, the OIG could not substantiate the allegation regarding a City vehicle idling, wasting gas, and no one in the vehicle.

## ABBREVIATIONS

OIG: Office of Inspector General  
City: City of Albuquerque  
PD1: Planning Department Deputy Director  
E1: Code Enforcement Specialist

## INVESTIGATION

### Background

The complainant provided the vehicle number and the Office of Inspector General (OIG) was able to identify that the vehicle was assigned to a City of Albuquerque (City) employee with the Planning Department, Code Enforcement Division. The vehicle is equipped with a GPS device and the OIG was able to access the vehicle data for the day in question. From the address provided by the complainant, the OIG determined that the vehicle was idle for approximately twenty (20) minutes.

The OIG contacted the Planning Department Deputy Director (PD1) and requested information on the duties of a Code Enforcement employee and if there are any written policies or procedures for that position. PD1 replied that “The duties of a Code Enforcement Specialist require them to perform residential and commercial property, vacant lot, weed and litter inspections. They ensure properties comply with zoning codes, ordinances, regulations, and land-use requirements. The role of the Code Enforcement Specialist also requires them to work from their vehicle. They are equipped with a laptop and a mounted laptop stand in their vehicle where they produce their reports on violations of a property or area.”

PD1 also stated that Planning employees are required to follow Administrative Instruction 4-5 City Vehicle Usage Policy and 4-15 Fuel Conservation Policy when utilizing a City Vehicle.

**Allegation 1:** City vehicle idling, wasting gas, and no one in the vehicle.

**Considerations:** The OIG contacted the Code Enforcement Specialist, E1, who was assigned the vehicle referenced in the complaint, and informed E1 of the complaint. E1 was given the date and address of the inspection E1 performed. E1 was given the address following that inspection that the complainant gave and was asked to recall that day. E1 pulled the information from his laptop and recalled that a complaint was received regarding trash on the sidewalk of the address. E1 stated that he drove up to the address and exited the vehicle to take a picture and got back inside his vehicle. E1 stated there was no trash as reported. E1 was asked about the address the complainant had alleged the vehicle was idling, wasting gas and there was no one in the vehicle. The OIG was able to establish through the City’s Netfleet GPS that the vehicle was at the address for twenty (20) minutes. E1 stated that he does not recall getting out of his vehicle at the address given by the complainant. He usually stays in his vehicle and writes his report with the vehicle running because it is hot outside. E1 stated that if he goes to an address and has to exit his vehicle and walk around to do an inspection he will turn off and lock his vehicle. PD1 was also able to verify that during that time E1 was doing his data entry and uploading pictures to the Posse system that is used to

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document inspections. PD1 stated he did not see anything unusual and that his time frame fits for closing out the call for service and pulling up information for his next call.

**Allegation 1 Conclusion:** The OIG could not substantiate the allegation regarding a City vehicle idling, wasting gas, and no one in the vehicle. The vehicle was idling for twenty (20) minutes and from information pulled from the Posse system by PD1, E1 was doing his data entry and closing out the call for service along with pulling up information on his next call.