



OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL
City of Albuquerque

Melissa Santistevan, CIG, CIGE
Inspector General

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Investigative Informative Case Synopsis

FILE NO: 24-0005-C

SUBJECT MATTER: Allegation of abuse of power and hazardous working conditions.

STATUS: Final

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Christopher Saavedra
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CHRISTOPHER SAAVEDRA, EnCE, CIGI
INVESTIGATOR
OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL

February 15, 2024
Date of Completion

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Melissa R. Santistevan
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INSPECTOR GENERAL
OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL

February 15, 2024
Date of Approval

DocuSigned by:
[Signature]
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VICTOR GRIEGO, CPA
ACCOUNTABILITY IN GOVERNMENT
OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSON

May 15, 2024
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. The City of Albuquerque Office of Inspector General (OIG) conducts investigations, inspections, evaluations, and reviews in accordance with AIG standards.

On January 5, 2024, the OIG received an anonymous allegation stating that the Eastside Animal Welfare Department (AWD) was not maintaining clean areas in the kennel storage area, kennel freezers, and hallways. The referring party stated that blood had been left on the floor for over three (3) months with no attempt to clean it. The referring party also stated that large amounts of excrement were all over the floors which resulted in the addition of mice excrement for months on end. The referring party stated that this led to alleged hazardous conditions.

On February 1, 2024, the OIG conducted an unscheduled walk-through of the Eastside AWD facility with the purpose of substantiating or not substantiating the allegations of AWD not maintaining clean areas specifically in the storage area, kennel freezers, and hallways. Upon inspection of the facility, the OIG did not identify a large amount of excrement on the floors or the presence of mice during the physical observation of the facility. The OIG would recommend that when hazardous conditions exist, management or staff should contact Risk Management for an assessment.

As a result of the unscheduled walk-through, the OIG could not substantiate the allegation that the Eastside AWD facility was not maintaining clean areas in their kennel storage, kennel freezers, and hallways as stated in the initial allegation.