OFFICE OF THE STATE INSPECTOR GENERAL ANNUAL REPORT TO THE GOVERNOR AND VIRGINIA GENERAL ASSEMBLY

FRAUD AND ABUSE WHISTLE BLOWER FUND

SEPTEMBER 2021



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STATE INSPECTOR GENERAL
REPORT No. 2022-ADM-002



COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA

Office of the State Inspector General

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September 30, 2021

The Honorable Ralph Northam Governor of Virginia P.O. Box 1475 Richmond, VA 23219

Members of the Virginia General Assembly Pocahontas Building 900 E. Main St. Richmond, VA 23219

Dear Governor Northam and Members of the Virginia General Assembly:

Pursuant to *Code of Virginia* § 2.2-3014, the Office of the State Inspector General is submitting its fiscal year 2021 summary of Fraud and Abuse Whistle Blower Reward Fund activities.

Fraud and Abuse Whistle Blower Protection Act Program

The Fraud and Abuse Whistle Blower Reward Fund is used solely to provide monetary rewards to Commonwealth of Virginia citizens and state government employees who have disclosed information of wrongdoing or abuse under the Fraud and Abuse Whistle Blower Protection Act for a disclosure that results in a recovery of at least \$5,000. The amount of the reward shall be up to 10% of the actual sums recovered by the Commonwealth as a result of the disclosure of the wrongdoing or abuse. Regardless of the sums recovered, at no time shall the amount of any reward, even if less than 10 percent, exceed the balance of the Fund.

OSIG assumed responsibility for administering the fund effective July 1, 2012. Commonwealth citizens and state government employees are encouraged to report instances of wrongdoing or abuse by state and non-state agencies without fear of discrimination or reprisal per Code § 2.2-3009 et seq.

Whistle Blower Reward Fund FY 2021 Operations	
WBPA incidents reported to OSIG	8
Fund claims made to OSIG	0

Whistle Blower Reward Fund	
FY 2021 Financial Activity	
Fund balance: July 1, 2020	\$0.00
Fund deposits: July 1, 2020-June 30, 2021	\$0.00
Fund withdrawals: July 1, 2020-June 30, 2021	\$0.00
Fund balance: June 30, 2021	\$0.00

The Fraud and Abuse Whistle Blower Protection Act Manual

Policies and procedures for proper administration of the Fund, including eligibility requirements and rules for filing claims, are published and available on OSIG's <u>website</u>.

Whistle Blower Protection Act Regulation

The Act now has a regulation to comply with *Code of Virginia* § 2.2-3014: Fraud and Abuse Whistle Blower Reward Fund. The regulation, 1 VAC 42-30 Fraud and Abuse Whistle Blower Reward Fund, defines the Fund and its administration by OSIG, including eligibility requirements, amount, distribution, process for leftover monies at the end of the fiscal year and the Fund's establishment on the books of the Comptroller.

Please contact me at 804-625-3255 or <u>michael.westfall@osig.virginia.gov</u> with any questions. I am also available to meet with you to discuss this report or any aspects of this office at your convenience.

Respectfully,

Michael C. Westfall, CPA, CIG, CFE

State Inspector General

cc: Clark Mercer, Chief of Staff for Governor Northam

Division of Legislative Automated Systems § 30-34.15