

Sewerage & Water Board Employee threatened a Parking Enforcement Officer on social media

September 27, 2022

Introduction

The Office of Inspector General received information from the Department of Public Works (DPW), alleging that a S&WB employee verbally threatened a City of New Orleans (City) Parking Enforcement Officer (PEO) via social media posts for issuing a metered parking citation to a vehicle parked in the 600 block of St. Joseph Street. This location is adjacent to the S&WB main office at 625 Saint Joseph Street.

What the OIG Found

OIG investigators determined that S&WB employee Mytrell Carter posted messages on social media on two occasions in which she threatened to assault a PEO. When OIG investigators attempted to interview Carter on two occasions, she either refused to answer questions or gave answers that were untruthful.

What the OIG reported to the S&WB management

1. Carter may have violated the rules of the City's Civil Service Commission, by posting threatening messages on social media.
2. Carter also may have violated the S&WB Code of Ethics, by posting threatening messages on social media.
3. In addition, Carter failed to adhere to the guideline established in the S&WB Employee Handbook.
4. Carter violated City Code because she refused to cooperate with the OIG.
5. Carter's behavior during these interviews also constitutes a violation of City Code Section 2-1120, Paragraph (20)(d), which states:

Any employee, appointed officer or elected official of the city who violates any provision of this chapter shall be subject to discharge or such other discipline as may be specified in a collective bargaining agreement, in addition to any other penalty provided in the City Charter or ordinances.

S&WB response to OIG report

"The employee has received formally (permanent) documented negative performance counselling (with warning) and their probationary employment period (working test period) will be extended by a period of six months. The warning specifically cites that any misconduct or marginal conduct will result in immediate termination of employment during the extended probationary period."

OIG's response to the S&WB's letter concerning administrative actions

The OIG found that the S&WB was unable to extend Carter's probationary period by six months as described in the letter because the Civil Service Commission did not receive notification of the extension until July 5, 2022. Although Carter's initial six-month probationary period ended on July 10, 2022, according to Civil Service Commission rules, the S&WB should have notified the Commission of the extension of Carter's probationary employment period (working test period) at least ten (10) days before its expiration.

Consequently, Mytrell Carter has achieved permanent status as a S&WB employee despite her behavior as described in the report.