

## OPCD Vehicle Accident Improper Reporting 2023-0008-I

November 16, 2023

### **Purpose of This Report**

This investigation was initiated based on information received from anonymous complaints which reported the former OPCD Director, Tyrell Morris, was involved in a vehicle accident while operating an OPCD vehicle and that the accident was not properly reported to include the failure to adhere to the submission of a drug and alcohol test, in violation of OPCD policy. Allegations later arose from local news reports that changes were made to the OPCD Standard Operating Procedure Number 1.3.1 (SOP), which required OPCD employees involved in a vehicle accident with an OPCD vehicle undergo drug and alcohol test. Local media outlets also reported that changes were made to the SOP after the accident occurred. The alleged changes to the SOP included added language which lowered the standard required for drug and alcohol test for OPCD employees involved in a vehicle accident while operating an OPCD vehicle.

### **What the OIG Found**

On May 7, 2023, then Executive Director Tyrell Morris, OPCD, was involved in a vehicle accident while operating an OPCD vehicle. Based on the OIG's review of evidence obtained during the investigation, Morris may have altered and then deleted SOP 1.3.1. Further review of evidence also indicate that Morris may have caused the filing of a false insurance claim and defense in connection with this automobile accident.

### **What the OIG Recommended**

To ensure that OPCD has proper policies, revisions, and accountability associated within their operations, the OIG recommended the following actions:

- OPCD should review all of its policies to determine if they require updating and or revision.
- OPCD should implement employee controls on its policies and should update the titles accordingly. SOP 1.3.1 was erroneously titled and appears to have been altered by the former OPCD Executive Director. The OPCD should establish a review process for policies to ensure they are properly titled, complete, and have not been revised without an approval process.
- The OPCD policies regarding vehicle accidents should closely mirror the City Accident Policy for vehicles, which is a well-established protocol.

### **Statement of Inspector General**

"A thorough review and proper policy controls should be implemented to ensure transparency and appropriate accountability of OPCD employees." Edward Michel, Inspector General

If you wish to speak to me, I can be contacted at (504) 681-3263 or via email at [emichel@nolaoig.gov](mailto:emichel@nolaoig.gov).



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