



Offices of the
Inspector General

LUCY LANG
Inspector General

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May 20, 2024

Kerri E. Neifeld
Commissioner
New York State Office
for People With Developmental Disabilities
44 Holland Avenue
Albany, New York 12229

Re: NYSIG 2619-031-2023

Dear Commissioner Neifeld:

In August 2023, the New York State Office for People With Developmental Disabilities (OPWDD) alleged to the Offices of the New York State Inspector General that [REDACTED], a food service worker assigned to the [REDACTED] Program [REDACTED], New York) stole various items from the facility between June and August 2023. OPWDD subsequently alleged to the Inspector General that [REDACTED] stole socks on December 5, 2023, from an OPWDD Safety and Human Resources building located at [REDACTED].

The Inspector General's investigation of the thefts from the [REDACTED] Day Program, which were reported as occurring on five dates between June and August 2023, found no evidence linking [REDACTED] or others to the thefts on four of the dates. For a theft that occurred on August 3, 2023, the Inspector General spoke to [REDACTED] the superintendent at the [REDACTED] Program facility. [REDACTED] stated that on August 3, 2023, while he was in the basement of the facility, he observed [REDACTED] carrying heaters and toilet seats that [REDACTED] believed [REDACTED] was attempting to steal. When [REDACTED] confronted [REDACTED], [REDACTED] gave the items back to [REDACTED]. OPWDD advised that it reported these incident to the New York City Police Department (NYPD); however, the NYPD determined the incidents would not be pursued.

Following the thefts, OPWDD reassigned [REDACTED] to work at the [REDACTED] [REDACTED] in [REDACTED]. After he began working at the [REDACTED], two clothing thefts occurred at that location, on November 28 and 29, 2023, though the Inspector General's investigation found no evidence linking [REDACTED] to these incidents. OPWDD reported the occurrences to the NYPD, which took no action.

Regarding the December 5, 2023, theft of socks from an OPWDD Safety and Human Resources building located in [REDACTED], the Inspector General's investigation recovered

video surveillance depicting [REDACTED] at that location reaching behind the front desk window, taking socks from a box, placing the socks inside of his bag, and leaving the facility. The Inspector General provided the video surveillance to the NYPD, which issued an investigation card for [REDACTED]

Given the lack of evidence linking [REDACTED] to the above-described thefts, apart from the December 5, 2023 incident that is already being investigated by the NYPD, the Inspector General has determined referral of these other matters for criminal prosecution would be inappropriate.

Therefore, I am referring the findings of this investigation to OPWDD for any action deemed appropriate against [REDACTED]. As a review of [REDACTED] personnel records and time logs revealed that he has consistently demonstrated unsatisfactory attendance and punctuality and received multiple counseling memos, I recommend that OPWDD conduct a comprehensive performance review and evaluation of [REDACTED]

Please advise me of the action taken by your agency in response to this referral and recommendation within 45 days of the date of this letter. If you require further information, please contact Deputy Inspector General Ken Michaels at [REDACTED].

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Lucy Lang".

Lucy Lang
Inspector General

cc: Eileen M. Haynes, Esq.
Deputy Commissioner and General Counsel