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

FRAUD AND ABUSE WHISTLE BLOWER FUND

SEPTEMBER 2016



JUNE W. JENNINGS, CPA STATE INSPECTOR GENERAL REPORT NO. 2016-ADM-002



COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA Office of the State Inspector General

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September 28, 2016

The Honorable Terence R. McAuliffe Governor of Virginia Patrick Henry Building, Third Floor 1111 East Broad Street Richmond, VA 23219

Members of the Virginia General Assembly General Assembly Building 1000 Bank Street Richmond, VA 23219

Dear Governor McAuliffe and Members of the Virginia General Assembly:

Pursuant to *Code of Virginia* (Code) § <u>2.2-3014</u>, the Office of the State Inspector General (OSIG) submits the fiscal year 2016 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 solely used 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 (WBPA) for a disclosure that results in a recovery of at least \$5,000. The amount of the reward shall be up to 10 percent 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 WBPA 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 2016 Operations	
WBPA incidents reported to OSIG	1
Fund claims made to OSIG	None

Whistle Blower Reward Fund		
FY 2016 Financial Activity		
Fund balance: July 1, 2015	\$0.00	
Fund deposits: July 1, 2015-June 30, 2016	\$0.00	
Fund withdrawals: July 1, 2015-June 30, 2016	\$0.00	
Fund balance: June 30, 2016	\$0.00	

The Fraud and Abuse Whistle Blower Protection Act Regulations, Policies and Procedures Manual

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

WBPA Regulation

The WBPA is currently operating under an emergency regulation to comply with Code of Virginia $\frac{2.2-3014}{1000}$: Fraud and Abuse Whistle Blower Reward Fund, while the Notice of Intended Regulatory Action (NOIRA) process is underway.

The proposed regulation — 1 VAC 42-30 Fraud and Abuse Whistle Blower Reward Fund — defines the Fraud and Abuse Whistle Blower Reward Fund and its administration by OSIG, including eligibility requirements, amount, distribution, process for leftover moneys at the end of the fiscal year, and the Fund's establishment on the books of the Comptroller.

A Regulatory Advisory Panel — consisting of General Assembly senators and delegates; president of the National Association of Inspectors General, who is also a state inspector general; attorneys who represent government whistleblowers; and executive directors of oversight organizations — will be used in the development of the permanent regulation.

If you have any questions, please contact me at (804) 625-3255 or via email at <u>june.jennings@osig.virginia.gov</u>. I am also available to meet with you to discuss this report or any aspects of this office at your convenience.

Respectfully,

June W. Jennings, CPA

State Inspector General

cc: Paul Reagan, Chief of Staff for Governor McAuliffe Suzette Denslow, Deputy Chief of Staff for Governor McAuliffe