



ROGER W. HOLMES
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P.O. Box 2459
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DATE: December 6, 2022

INSPECTOR GENERAL'S REPORT TO THE CITY COUNCIL

2022-OIG-5

I was contacted by a Complainant whom I interviewed in person regarding Complainant's issue that she lives near a Springfield Alderman on a one-way street that has parking only on Complainant's side of the street. Complainant stated that the Alderman's lawn service would block Complainant's driveway while servicing the Alderman's lawn. Additionally, Complainant states that Alderman's guests park in such a way as to block Complainant's driveway.

Complainant further stated that the Alderman addressed Complainant's spouse in a disrespectful manner.

I was shown a photo of an alleged incident of blocking which did, minimally, block a portion of Complainant's driveway. This is the only photo which Complainant had though there were several instances of a claimed blocked driveway.

I discussed the matter by telephone with the Alderman in question who denied the allegations and stated that Complainant's spouse had addressed the Alderman using vulgar language. I am closing this investigation with no recommendation for further action.

Respectfully submitted,

Roger W. Holmes, Inspector General



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INSPECTOR GENERAL'S REPORT TO THE CITY COUNCIL

2022-OIG-6

I received a complaint from a City Employee that a co-worker acting as a night watchman was operating a personal business while on city time. I conducted an in-person interview with Complainant and we discussed Complainant's right to remain anonymous.

I discussed the matter with a City Supervisor who has ultimate authority over the behavior of the employee allegedly conducting personal business on city time. The Supervisor was very cooperative but stated that due to Union grievance procedures, it would be difficult to pursue this matter without the disclosure and cooperation of Complainant as an eye witness. I contacted Complainant with that information and stated that if he wished to come forward the action against the Respondent would be much more likely to succeed. I asked Complainant to think about that option and I have not heard from Complainant again.

The employee allegedly running a business as night watchman now has a day shift, non-watchman position at the facility.

This investigation is closed with no action recommended.

Respectfully submitted,

Roger W. Holmes, Inspector General



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INSPECTOR GENERAL'S REPORT TO THE CITY COUNCIL

2022-OIG-8

I received an anonymous email complaint regarding a question of the City Clerk awarding two employees raises in excess of 5%. Complainant did not make themselves available for an in-person interview.

I conducted an extensive interview of City Clerk Lesko regarding the issue raised by the anonymous Complainant. Mr. Lesko explained that this was not a situation of a pay raise but instead, through negotiations with AFSCME, Local #3738, it was a job reclassification. Previously the Clerks office had two Administrative Clerk II positions, each of which paid an annual salary of \$50,000. The newly created positions are Administrative Coordinator and Deputy Registrar. Each of these positions contains significant additional duties that were not part of the job description for Administrative Clerk II.

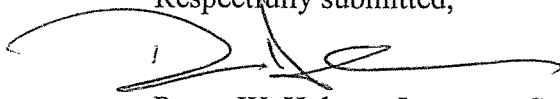
According to a portion of the Union contract which Mr. Lesko provided to me, "in the event the Employer determines to create a new job classification within the Unit during the term of this Agreement, the Union shall be notified and given the opportunity to negotiate the pay rate." In compliance with the contractual language, Mr. Lesko negotiated with the Union and proposed a salary for each of the new positions of \$60,000 annually. Following a rejection by the Union, a final agreement was reached for a salary of \$65,000 annually for each position.

When the Administrative Clerk II positions were eliminated and the new job classifications were made, the duties were increased to include being on call 24/7, the scanning of all administrative court records, and placing them on a public website. In the past, such records were only available by a FOIA request. The newly created positions also have the duty of working with the Springfield Public Library to scan records in archives that date as far back as the Lincoln Era. Both employees must now be notary publics, the two new positions require that the employees take home their work laptop to ensure the 24/7 access, which is particularly helpful to funeral directors. There will now be two trained FOIA officers rather than a previous single position.

Mr. Lesko stated that he will still have a personnel budget surplus even after the job reclassification.

It is my opinion that City Clerk Lesko has fully documented the reclassification of the two positions with significant additional duties and that the salary was negotiated as required by the Union Contract in place. It is my opinion that no impropriety has occurred, and this matter is closed with no recommendation for further action.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'R. Holmes', with a large, sweeping initial 'R' and a horizontal line extending to the right.

Roger W. Holmes, Inspector General



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INSPECTOR GENERAL'S REPORT TO THE CITY COUNCIL

2022-OIG-9

I was contacted by a Complainant who later attended an in-person interview. Complainant was concerned that he was treated rudely by a City Employee and described his experience to me. Based upon the situation it appears that the Employee was acting zealously in performing Employee's job but may have been overly zealous.

I contacted the Employee's Supervisor and learned that the Employee had taken a position in State government and is no longer on the City of Springfield payroll. Therefore, Respondent was deprived of the opportunity to respond to the allegations. For these reasons, this investigation is closed with no further action being taken.

This situation, however, should serve as a reminder to all employees and elected officials that their conduct represents the City of Springfield and that all whom they come in contact with should be treated respectfully.

Respectfully submitted,

Roger W. Holmes, Inspector General



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INSPECTOR GENERAL'S REPORT TO THE CITY COUNCIL

2022-OIG-10

I was contacted by e-mail by a Complainant who was concerned that City Light & Power allowed the Wyndham Hotel to incur a bill for utility services in excess of \$1 million dollars without collection actions being taken when other citizens of Springfield were subject to collection actions.

Soon after receiving the Complaint I was advised by the Mayor's office that the Wyndham utility bill had been paid in full by wire transfer. I was advised that the Wyndham utility bill was the subject of City Council discussion and accrued with the knowledge of the City Council. Two compelling reasons for not pursuing payment at an earlier date were that the Wyndham was being considered as a quarantine housing unit for covid patients during the height of the pandemic. Additionally I have been advised that the City's 911 antennae is on the top of the Wyndham Hotel and that disconnecting power to the Hotel would disable 911 service throughout the area.

For the foregoing reasons, I find that this investigation should be closed with no further action or recommendations being made.

Respectfully submitted,

Roger W. Holmes, Inspector General