



THE MARYLAND-NATIONAL CAPITAL PARK AND PLANNING COMMISSION

Office of the Inspector General

MEMORANDUM OF LIMITED INVESTIGATION

April 11, 2025

**To:** Miti Figueredo, Director  
Montgomery County Department of Parks

Darryl McSwain, Chief  
Maryland-National Capital Park Police Department, Montgomery County Division

**From:** Renee Kenney, CIG, CPA, CIA, CISA  
Inspector General

Modupe Ogunduyile, CIG  
Deputy Inspector General

**Re:** Alleged Waste – Montgomery County Park Police Canine Program  
Limited Investigation - MC-012-2025

A Memorandum of Limited Investigation describes specific issues or complaints received and the outcomes of limited procedures undertaken during a preliminary inquiry conducted by the Office of the Inspector General (OIG). The investigation was not conducted per Government Auditing Standards or Principles and Standards for Inspector Offices of Inspector General.

**Concern/Allegation:** Allegations of wasteful spending within the Maryland-National Capital Park Police Department, Montgomery County Division's (MC Park Police) Canine (K9) Program were submitted to the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission's independent hotline. Per the allegations:

1. Command staff spent thousands of dollars to purchase dogs that were never used and had to be retired before being put in service.
2. Outside consultants that are friends of command staff are making thousands of dollars for their input into the K9 program.
3. There are so many handlers and yet the police are having to pay extraordinary amounts of overtime to Patrol Officers because there are not enough Patrol Officers to safely work the roads.

### **Inquiry and Outcome:**

The K9 Program (Program) operates within MC Park Police, Operations Branch. In 2022, the Program was disbanded as it was not operating properly<sup>1</sup>. At the time the Program was disbanded, there were 4 handlers, 4 patrol dogs and 3 bloodhounds. Subsequently, [REDACTED] was asked to take over and rebuild the Program. As part of the rebuilding, investments were made in new K9 vehicles, a new training program was developed, and internal procedures were strengthened to require home inspections<sup>2</sup> of the dog kennels. The Program now has 8 handlers, 4 patrol dogs, 3 bloodhounds, and 1 human remains detection dog (one dog for each Officer). All 8 handlers had to apply for a position within the Program.

The OIG interviewed Officers with knowledge of the Program. The OIG also obtained and reviewed MC Park Police financial records. Our review focused on purchase orders for K9s and external consultants. The Program does not have its own budget line within MC Park Police. In regard to the specific concerns detailed in the hotline report, the OIG determined:

1. Purchased patrol dogs come with a warranty that covers health and performance. Bloodhounds are typically purchased as puppies and do not come with a warranty. However, due to an established relationship with Cyclone Ridge Kennel, they were able to return one bloodhound with a medical issue and receive a replacement at no additional cost. **Exhibit A** contains a summary of all K9 purchases between December 2023 and December 2024.
2. A paid consultant ([REDACTED]) was used in 2022 to help set up and rebuild the Program. Many of the external services needed to restart the Program were provided free of charge. [REDACTED] was hired as a Commission full-time civilian employee in 2023 to provide training in the various schools for the K9s and to provide guidance for the Program. There were no paid consultants in FY24.
3. Bloodhounds are always counted towards patrol numbers/staffing. Patrol dogs are counted towards patrol numbers/staffing before overtime is advertised.

### **Summary and Conclusion:**

The OIG did not find any evidence of abuse of funds within MC Park Police's K9 Program.

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<sup>1</sup> MD State Police completed an assessment of four K9 teams on February 9, 2023. The review showed numerous issues and discrepancies. The report concluded, all K9 teams lack the reliability and workability needed to currently be in-service as Police K9's.

<sup>2</sup> The K9s go home with their handlers.

Alleged Waste - MC Park Police Canine Program  
MC-012-2025 – Limited Investigation

Cc:

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Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission

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**Exhibit A**  
**K9 Purchases**  
**December 2023 – December 2024**

| <b>Date</b> | <b>K9 Purchased</b>     | <b>Cost</b>                         | <b>Comment</b>                                    |
|-------------|-------------------------|-------------------------------------|---|
| Dec. 2023   | Bloodhound – [REDACTED] | \$2,500                             | Replaced Chloe who retired                        |
| Dec. 2023   | Bloodhound - [REDACTED] | Free                                | Replaced Nala under warranty with a medical issue |
| July 2024   | Patrol - [REDACTED]     | \$10,000 (obtained a \$7,500 grant) | Replaced Duke who retired at 9 years old          |
| Aug. 2024   | Bloodhound - [REDACTED] | \$1,800                             | Replaced Dolly who retired at 5 years old         |