

# Memorandum



CITY OF DALLAS  
(Report No. I16-007)

DATE: July 11, 2016

TO: Honorable Mayor Michael S. Rawlings  
Honorable Jennifer Gates, Chair – Budget, Finance & Audit Committee  
Christopher D. Bowers, Interim City Attorney

SUBJECT: Investigative Report:  
Department of Trinity Watershed Management – Theft

This report provides results of an investigation of an allegation involving a Department of Trinity Watershed Management (TWM) Truck Driver, Mr. Sergio Ornelas, stealing food items from a convenience store while on duty and while driving a City of Dallas (City) truck.<sup>1</sup>

On February 1, 2016, TWM reported to the Office of the City Auditor (Office) that it had received a complaint that a City employee, in uniform and driving a City truck, had stolen items from a convenience store located on Inwood Road. The TWM employee was identified by the City truck number he was driving and through in-store surveillance video. This information was forwarded to the Dallas Police Department – Public Integrity Unit (DPD-PIU) who investigated the complaint and issued Mr. Ornelas a citation for a Class C misdemeanor theft.

The Office conducted an administrative review and the evidence obtained and reviewed is sufficient to support the finding that Mr. Ornelas violated the Dallas City Code Personnel Rules, specifically: dishonesty, theft, misconduct, and disregard of public trust.

The TWM Management was in the process of terminating Mr. Ornelas when he provided a letter of resignation on April 28, 2016. The TWM accepted the letter of resignation and provided the employee's final termination paperwork to the appropriate departments on May 6, 2016.

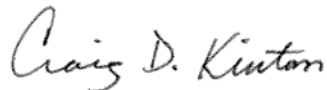
---

<sup>1</sup> Council Resolution 90-4027 requires the Office of the City Auditor to report to the Mayor, the Chair of the City Council Budget, Finance & Audit Committee, and the City Attorney any apparent violations of law, apparent instances of misfeasance, or nonfeasance by City of Dallas employees. Investigations by the Office of the City Auditor are considered nonaudit projects under the Government Audit Standards and are conducted in accordance with quality standards for Inspection and Evaluation established by the Council of the Inspectors General on Integrity and Efficiency, Association of Certified Fraud Examiners code of professional ethics, and City Code.

Honorable Mayor Michael Rawlings  
Honorable Jennifer Gates, Chair – Budget Finance & Audit Committee  
Christopher D. Bowers, Interim City Attorney  
July 11, 2016  
Page 2 of 2

If you have any questions or would like to be briefed regarding this matter, please contact me at (214) 670-3222 or Amy Messer, Assistant City Auditor, at (214) 670-5347.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Craig D. Kinton".

Craig D. Kinton  
City Auditor

C: Honorable Members of the City Council  
A.C. Gonzalez, City Manager  
Mark McDaniel, Assistant City Manager  
Sarah Standifer, Director – Department of Trinity Watershed Management  
Vanessa Gray, Interim Ethics and Diversity Officer