***Gratuities***

It is always gratifying to hear that our staff has provided exemplary service to those with whom we do business. Sometimes, however, the expression of appreciation is made in a form that is inappropriate for government employees to accept.

OCFO employees are prohibited by law from accepting money or other things of value as an appreciation for a job well done. Sometimes even the mere offer of something of value may violate bribery and gratuity statutes. A more appropriate expression of gratitude for the service rendered is a letter to the employee's supervisor. If you don't know who that is, you may simply send your letter to the Office of the Chief Financial Officer, and it will be routed to the proper official.

***Other Gift Rules***

Gifts of food and/or beverages, even during holiday seasons and other celebratory occasions, are not acceptable if the giver has a business relationship of any kind with the D.C. Government. Such offers, while well-intentioned, tend to give the impression of a special relationship between the giver and the government employee.

This rule does not apply to the offer and acceptance of an insignificant item, such as a soft drink, coffee, donuts and other modest items of food and refreshments when not offered as part of a meal. Additional information on gift rules and exceptions is contained in OCFO Code of Conduct, which can be accessed electronically at www.cfo.dc.gov. Go to Information, click on Integrity and Oversight, then click on Integrity Documents to reach the Code of Conduct.

***Compliance with Contracting Rules and Regulations***

Ensuring compliance with the provisions of contracts is an important expectation of government employees. Even so, we have seen examples where the rules were not followed, usually based on the "need to get the job done." Such behavior puts both the government employee and the contractor in jeopardy.

If modifications to existing contracts are necessary, they should be formally pursued in accordance with OCFO contracting rules and regulations. No work outside the specifications of a contract should be performed without an approved contract modification. Performing work outside of contract specifications or beyond authorized funding, could result in a default for the contractor and denial of payment for such work. In the more extreme cases, failure to comply with contracting regulations could be considered fraud and may be investigated as a criminal violation.

***Reporting Misconduct, Fraud, Waste and Abuse***

The OCFO has a zero tolerance policy for fraud and misconduct involving its employees and programs. Similarly, we do not tolerate attempts to corrupt our employees.

The Office of Integrity and Oversight is an independent entity of the OCFO with responsibility for protecting the integrity of the OCFO and preventing fraud and other misconduct in OCFO programs. OIO conducts investigations of alleged employee misconduct and works closely with federal and District law enforcement agencies in investigating criminal offenses affecting the integrity of the OCFO.

We all want the government's business to be conducted fairly, impartially, and with the highest degree of integrity. The best way to ensure this is to report any indication that illegal acts or administrative misconduct may have occurred. Here is how you can report such matters, by telephone, in person, mail, or electronically:

## ***OCFO Office of Integrity and Oversight***

1100 4th Street, S.W.; Suite 750-E
Washington, DC 20024
(202) 442-6433

In addition to receiving your report, investigators are available to discuss any questions or concerns you may have about the matter. Reporting can also be done electronically at the OCFO website: www.cfo.dc.gov. Under Information, click on the Integrity and Oversight link, and then click on Reporting Incidents and Concerns.

## ***OCFO Confidential Hotline***

In order to address any concern about reporting anonymously, the OCFO has contracted with an independent, third-party organization that provides a confidential hotline service. This hotline is available for reporting allegations of OCFO employee misconduct, and fraud, waste and abuse involving OCFO programs.

Reports can be made by telephone to this toll-free hotline, which is staffed 24 hours a day, at 1-877-252-8805, or it can be accessed at www.ocfo.ethicspoint.com.

## ***District of Columbia Office of the Inspector General***

Reports of fraud, waste and abuse may be reported to the Office of the Inspector General by telephone at 1-800-521-1639, or electronically at www.oig.dc.gov.

*This document was prepared by the Office of Integrity and Oversight, Office of the Chief Financial Officer (Revised May 2010)*