



Fraternal Order of Police United States Park Police Labor Committee

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For Immediate Release

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“The Potential Public and Officer Safety Consequences of Such a Poor Decision are Staggering”

Kenneth Spencer, the Chairman of the US Park Police Fraternal Order of Police (USPPFOP) today issued the following statement in response to today's release by the Department of Interior Inspector General regarding misuse of government vehicles by USPP management:

"Our union, with support from Congresswoman Eleanor Holmes Norton (D-DC), begged management for months to adopt a home-to-work vehicle policy to help patrol officers respond to emergencies more quickly. Our request was flatly rejected by US Park Police Command Officials because 'the use of government vehicles is controlled by several laws and regulations.' Indeed, they are and we find it outrageous that management themselves flagrantly and self-servingly violated one of the most fundamental laws - using government vehicles for outside employment purposes.

"The OIG findings are disgraceful. A management official who teleworked during the time under investigation felt entitled to take a much needed patrol vehicle off the street so that he could pursue a side hustle. The potential public and officer safety consequences of such a poor decision are staggering.

"When the Acting Chief wrote to Representative Norton in July, they argued that they were unable to approve patrol officers for take home vehicles because they 'must ensure we are making fiscally responsible and sustainable decisions with our funding.' How rich! Instead of enabling officers on the street to respond expeditiously to crimes against persons or property in Washington, New York, and San Francisco, they chose to misuse government property to fatten their own wallets.

"Today, in the wake of this blatant abuse of taxpayer resources, I'm calling on the Interior Department to begin putting patrol officers - the officers who protect the public - first. Our union stands prepared with a list of reforms to do exactly that. Let's not wait another day."

U.S. Park Police Supervisor Misused Government Vehicle To Drive to Outside Employment

Report Date: July 14, 2022

Report Number: 21-0618

The OIG investigated an allegation that a U.S. Park Police (USPP) supervisor violated the USPP's home-to-work Government-owned vehicle (GOV) restrictions when he used his assigned GOV to drive to his outside employment.

We found that the USPP supervisor used his GOV for a non-official purpose to drive to and from his approved outside employment in 2021 in violation of law and USPP policies, including General Order 40.01. General Order 40.01 states, "An Officer shall not use a Force vehicle as part of any spare-time employment." The supervisor admitted to driving his GOV to his outside employment between five and a dozen times but stated he did not believe his actions violated the policies prohibiting use of a GOV for outside employment. We found evidence that he used his GOV to drive to his outside employment on 10 occasions in 2021. We also concluded that the supervisor's interpretation of the policy was not reasonable and that the policy and other USPP guidance prohibit use of the vehicle under these circumstances.

This is a summary of an investigative report we issued to the National Park Service.

