



P O R T L A N D
CITY AUDITOR
Audit Services

MEMORANDUM

TO: Ted Wheeler, Mayor
Jo Ann Hardesty, Commissioner
Carmen Rubio, Commissioner
Dan Ryan, Commissioner
Mingus Mapps, Commissioner

FROM: Mary Hull Caballero, City Auditor

DATE: April 18, 2022

RE: Fire & Rescue employees used City parking access to avoid airport fees

Portland Fire & Rescue confirmed a tip to the Fraud Hotline that alleged Portland firefighters parked at a City fire station near the airport to avoid parking fees during personal travel. Oregon Revised Statute 297.765 (6)(c) requires that evidence of waste, inefficiency, or abuse of City resources be reported to you.

Bureau management acknowledged that it allowed staff to use fire station parking when off-duty and on vacation in violation of City rules. The practice is also a potential violation of the Oregon Government Ethics Law that prohibits using an official position to avoid financial detriment.

We recommended that the Bureau at a minimum share information about the applicable rules and regulations with staff and ensure they are followed. We also recommended that when evidence suggests ethics violations, supervisors should correct the conduct and contact the Bureau of Human Resources to begin a disciplinary investigation. We recently made similar recommendations in response to a tip about Fire employees being allowed by supervisors to wash personal vehicles at their stations while on-duty.

Chief Sara Boone said management would conduct additional training on applicable rules and laws. She also said the training will distinguish between parking at City facilities for business versus personal travel.

