

**2019  
ANNUAL  
REPORT**

CITY OF  
PORTLAND,  
OREGON

F R A U D  
**HOTLINE**

**Tips expose mismanagement,  
waste of City resources**

April 2020

The Fraud Hotline offers a way for the public and City employees to confidentially report suspected fraud, waste and abuse of position by or against the City. The Hotline helps identify and prevent losses of City funds and acts as a deterrent to fraud, waste, and abuse of position.

**13 investigations were conducted in 2019**   **3 substantiated tips**   **1 investigation pending**   **9 tips not substantiated**

Confidential tips to the Auditor’s Fraud Hotline led to 13 investigations in 2019, three of which resulted in substantiated findings of waste or abuse of position.

**Substantiated tips**



We found waste and mismanagement while investigating the working retirement of the former director of Portland’s municipal golf courses. The former director worked nearly double the hours permitted by a written agreement and the working retirement was not properly managed.

**>>> [View the full report online](#)**



We found evidence of procurement and ethics violations in an investigation prompted by a tip alleging purchasing improprieties by the Water Bureau. Staff broke up a \$180,000 purchase 18 times to avoid a competitive procurement process and the manager overseeing the purchases was married to the salesperson.

**>>> [View the full report online](#)**



We found that the Police Bureau risked spending more than \$400,000 in General Fund money instead of federal grant funds because it did not heed warnings that the Sex Crimes Unit was out of compliance with grant requirements.

**>>> [View the full report online](#)**

**5 tips declined to investigate**

Five tips lacked enough specificity to investigate or didn't meet our criteria for investigation.

**6 tips transferred**

Three tips were transferred to Human Resources and three were transferred to Independent Police Review for further review.

**28 tips were outside of our purview**

Twenty tips were not related to the City of Portland, six related to the City but were not fraud, waste, or abuse; and, two tips were about elected officials.

**▶ [Learn more about the Fraud Hotline](#)**



**www.PortlandFraudHotline.com | 866-342-4148**

**If you think something is wrong in Portland City government, make sure we know it, too.**

The Fraud Hotline receives reports of suspected fraud, waste, or misuse of City resources by City employees, contractors, board members, or anyone representing the City. Anyone can file a report, and you can choose to be anonymous. We'll investigate and report results back to you.

You have the right to report anonymously. Hotline reports go to an outside vendor to ensure security and confidentiality. If you wish to remain anonymous and not provide contact information, please note the Report Key that is provided when you've filled out the report form or completed a call to the hotline. We can use the vendor's online portal to communicate and share documents without ever knowing your name or contact information.

The more details you can provide, the more effectively we can investigate. Provide as much detail as possible:

- Who, what, when, where, and how.
- Include dates, names, locations, amounts, and witnesses.
- Upload documents and pictures to the website.

**FRAUD**

Is an intentional deception which could result in a benefit for which a person or entity is not entitled.

Examples include:

- Theft of City money, equipment, supplies, or data.
- Forging or falsifying documents (invoices, timesheets, travel documents, etc.).
- Soliciting or accepting a bribe.

**WASTE**

Involves the careless or extravagant expenditure of City funds or the misuse or mismanagement of City resources. Waste does not have to involve a private use or personal gain and can be intentional or unintentional.

**ABUSE**

Involves the improper use of a City position to obtain a benefit or advantage. Abuse may also involve the improper use or destruction of City records or other resources.

Examples include:

- Using a City position to obtain advantage.
- Suspending or terminating enforcement action based on a personal relationship.
- Failure to report damage to City equipment or property.

Anonymously report fraud, waste or misuse of City resources  
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To request these services, contact 503-823-4078, City TTY 503-823-6868, or Relay Service: 711.

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**Visit our website:**  
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