



STATE OF OHIO

OFFICE OF THE INSPECTOR GENERAL

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

OHIO INSPECTOR GENERAL INVESTIGATES EMPLOYEE CONDUCTING REAL ESTATE BUSINESS WHILE AT WORK FOR THE OHIO ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
Columbus, Ohio, February 4, 2016

The Ohio Inspector General has issued a report of investigation initiated after administrators at the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency alleged an employee was operating a personal business during days and times when he was working for the state of Ohio.

The investigation confirmed Edwin Perez, an environmental specialist in the air pollution control division south of Cleveland, had made more than 700 telephone calls in six months that were unrelated to matters involving the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency. Over the same time period, an analysis of the state-owned computer assigned to Perez showed more than 3,500 visits to websites related to real estate.

During an interview with the inspector general, Perez estimated he owned 13 real estate properties and was in the business of buying distressed properties, hiring contractors to make repairs or improvements, and then renting the properties to tenants.

The report of investigation will be provided to the Summit County Prosecuting Attorney for consideration.

Ohio Inspector General Report of Investigation file number 2015-CA00034 is now available at:
<http://watchdog.ohio.gov/Investigations/2016Investigations.aspx>

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