



STATE OF OHIO
OFFICE OF THE INSPECTOR GENERAL

RANDALL J. MEYER, INSPECTOR GENERAL

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

OHIO INSPECTOR GENERAL REVIEWS THE HIRING AND TERMINATION OF EMPLOYEES AT THE OHIO DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Columbus, Ohio, September 29, 2016

The inspector general has issued a report of investigation today reviewing the actions of employees in the human resources division of the Ohio Department of Agriculture.

A former employee, Donald Mills, alleged his supervisor, Human Resources Director Traci Orahood, manipulated the hiring process to ensure a person recommended by Orahood would be selected to receive a position of employment at the agency. In turn, the inspector general also reviewed the circumstance leading up to the termination of Donald Mills, which occurred once Orahood submitted a petition leading to a decision by the Ohio Department of Administrative Services to remove Mills' protected civil service status.

In view of both the hiring and termination process, the inspector general found cause to believe an appearance of impropriety occurred in both instances. To that end, the inspector general made a number of recommendations to the director of the Ohio Department of Agriculture and the director of the Ohio Department of Administrative Services and has requested each respond within 60 days.

Ohio Inspector General Report of Investigation file number 2014-CA00051 is now available at:
<http://watchdog.ohio.gov/Investigations/2016Investigations.aspx>

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