



STATE OF OHIO

## OFFICE OF THE INSPECTOR GENERAL

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

OHIO INSPECTOR GENERAL INVESTIGATION FINDS RAMPANT FRAUD, WASTE, AND ABUSE IN OHIO PENAL INDUSTRIES  
Columbus, Ohio, December 20, 2018

The Ohio Inspector General issued a report of investigation today after investigating a complaint alleging that Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Correction (ODRC) employees assigned to work at the Ohio Penal Industries (OPI) were using their positions for personal gain. The complaint also cited concerns that OPI equipment had been improperly disposed of and possibly stolen.

The Inspector General conducted a joint investigation with the ODRC Chief Inspector's Office into the activities at OPI. OPI operates 33 shops at 13 correctional facilities and is responsible for a training program designed to provide vocational skills and a meaningful work experience for inmates.

The investigation encompassed a multitude of issues including, but not limited to: millions of taxpayers' dollars spent on the enhancement of two dairy facilities that were never used; mismanagement and lack of oversight of OPI's vehicle service center; discounts or free services provided to select state of Ohio employees for repairs of their personal vehicles; vendor-paid trips provided to OPI employees; use of inmates for personal tasks; and several instances of furniture provided at no charge.

The report of investigation details 26 instances of wrongdoing or impropriety by specific employees or are attributed to the management of OPI or ODRC. The report of investigation has been sent to the Franklin County Prosecutor's Office, the City of Columbus Prosecuting Attorney, and the Ohio Ethics Commission for consideration.

Ohio Inspector General Report of Investigation file number 2017-CA00024 is now available at:  
<http://watchdog.ohio.gov/investigations/2018investigations.aspx>

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