



STATE OF OHIO

OFFICE OF THE INSPECTOR GENERAL

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

OHIO INSPECTOR GENERAL INVESTIGATION FINDS OHIO DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY EMPLOYEE WAS IMPROPERLY TRANSPORTED BY PRIVATE AIRPLANE FOR SITE VISIT
Columbus, Ohio, November 14, 2019

The Ohio Inspector General issued a report of investigation today after receiving an anonymous complaint alleging that Ohio Department of Public Safety, Division of Emergency Medical Services (EMS) employee Christina Miller was flown in a private plane owned by EMS board member Herb de la Porte, to conduct a site visit at an EMS training academy owned by de la Porte. The complaint further alleged that Miller's supervisor authorized the trip.

Investigators confirmed that Herb de la Porte was both a board member on the State Board of Emergency Medical, Fire, and Transportation Services and the owner of LifeCare EMS that is accredited and certified by EMS. Christina Miller, EMS program administrator 2, conducts site visits for the initial EMS accreditation and renewals for entities that provide emergency medical and fire services.

Investigators verified that the flight occurred and was improper since Herb de la Porte was the owner of a business regulated by the EMS board as well a member of the board, and that the transportation was provided for the purpose of a site visit of his facility. There was conflicting testimony as to whether or not Miller's supervisor authorized the travel. Ohio ethics laws address potential conflicts of interest and limit what travel is acceptable for public employees.

The report of investigation contains two recommendations and a referral to the Ohio Ethics Commission.

Ohio Inspector General Report of Investigation file number 2019-CA00024 is now available at:
<http://watchdog.ohio.gov/investigations/2019investigations.aspx>

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