

The Department of Justice Office of the Inspector General (OIG) today released two reports examining security support grants awarded by the Office of Justice Programs (OJP), Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA) to the Cities of Tampa, Florida and Charlotte, North Carolina. Both cities received \$49,850,000 from a \$100 million appropriation provided to cover security costs for the two principal 2012 presidential nominating conventions. The Republican National Convention was held in Tampa during August 2012, and the Democratic National Convention was held in Charlotte during September 2012.

The OIG found that both cities generally claimed costs in accordance with grant requirements. However, we found that after the convention had ended, the City of Tampa allowed the Mayor to drive a grant-funded sport utility vehicle himself, which was a non-criminal justice purpose and impermissible. We found that the City of Charlotte was reimbursed \$53,676 to purchase two sport utility vehicles that it did not modify in ways it certified to the BJA, which served as the justification for the purchase. The OIG also found that both cities were reimbursed for some labor costs that were not adequately supported or unallowable under the terms and conditions of the grants. The City of Tampa received \$25,192 in grant funds for overtime, salary, or fringe benefits that could not be adequately supported, while the City of Charlotte received \$79,311 in grant funds for such costs that were unallowable.

The OIG made seven recommendations to OJP for these two audits. For the City of Tampa, the OIG made two recommendations to remedy \$25,192 in questioned costs and ensure the city uses federal grant-funded property only for criminal justice purposes. The City of Tampa disagreed with the recommendations. For the City of Charlotte, the OIG made five recommendations to remedy a total of \$132,987 in questioned costs. The City of Charlotte agreed with the recommendations to remedy \$79,311 in questioned labor costs but disagreed with the recommendation to remedy \$53,676 in questioned costs for the two unnecessary sport utility vehicles. OJP agreed with the recommendations for both cities.

The reports can be found on the OIG's website at the following links: <http://www.justice.gov/oig/reports/2014/g4014003.pdf> and <http://www.justice.gov/oig/reports/2014/g4014004.pdf>.