



STATE OF OHIO

OFFICE OF THE INSPECTOR GENERAL

RANDALL J. MEYER, INSPECTOR GENERAL

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

OHIO INSPECTOR GENERAL INVESTIGATION FINDS OHIO DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION CONSULTANT IMPROPERLY USED HER STATE EMAIL TO FURTHER A PERSONAL BUSINESS AND WAS AWARDED A CONTRACT THAT VIOLATED PROCUREMENT PROCESSES
Columbus, Ohio, March 12, 2019

The Ohio Inspector General issued a report of investigation today after investigating Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT) Information Technology Consultant Demitra Burkhart who was working for the state of Ohio through her private company, AIN Systems. An investigation was opened to determine if Burkhart was using state resources to conduct her private consulting business. Investigators examined Burkhart's ODOT email account and discovered she had forwarded numerous emails to her personal email account containing contractors' resumes and ODOT work product; and emailed IT contractors who worked for her personal business in violation of ODOT policies.

Investigators further determined that Burkhart was improperly awarded a no-bid contract with ODOT through Data Systems Integration Group. Shawn Shelstad, an ODOT employee, submitted a Release and Permit request "to extend a contract for a project manager ..." that resulted in the award of a contract that benefited Demitra Burkhart. The contract was in fact not an extension of an existing contract and was awarded in a manner that circumvented the proper bidding process.

The Office of the Inspector General made recommendations to both ODOT and the Ohio Department of Administrative Services (ODAS) to address and correct issues identified in the investigation.

In December 2018, Burkhart and her company were debarred by ODAS from performing work with the state of Ohio.

Ohio Inspector General Report of Investigation file number 2017-CA00006 is now available at:
<http://watchdog.ohio.gov/investigations/2019investigations.aspx>

Contact:
Office of the Ohio Inspector General
(614) 644-9110

Find the Office of the Ohio Inspector General on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#)



To stop all email from the Office of the Ohio Inspector General, please respond to oig_watchdog@oig.ohio.gov and insert the word "unsubscribe" in the subject line.