



**GREGORY W. SULLIVAN**  
INSPECTOR GENERAL

*The Commonwealth of Massachusetts*  
*Office of the Inspector General*

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January 30, 2012

Jonathan Davis  
Acting General Manager  
Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority  
10 Park Plaza; 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor  
Boston, MA 02116-3978

Dear Mr. Davis:

The Office of the Inspector General wishes to bring to your attention the possible misuse of Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority (MBTA) property. The property in question is an MBTA parking lot approximately one city block from North Station. (please see attached map.)

OIG staff visited this property and recorded the license plate numbers of the 69 vehicles parked there. An OIG review of available data sources found that more than half of the vehicles could not be readily associated (either directly or indirectly) with an MBTA employee. The OIG understands that this finding alone is not definitive evidence of the misuse of this property. However, the OIG believes this does indicate a risk and raises the following points to demonstrate the MBTA's vulnerability to the misuse of its property:

- The OIG identified a number of vehicles that do not appear to belong on MBTA property. For example, the OIG found two vehicles registered to the owner of a restaurant on nearby Canal Street, one vehicle registered to the owner of a nearby liquor store, one vehicle registered to a company in the precious metal business, and four vehicles registered to employees of the state trial court.
- The OIG identified that the MBTA does not appear to have a standard means to identify vehicles authorized to be on the property. For example, OIG staff witnessed a wide variety of items placed on vehicle dashboards including: placards with "T" logos including some that appeared to be

hand-drawn, police placards, "emergency" or "official business" placards, contractor placards, MBTA publications or correspondence, business cards, and the majority of vehicles had orange-colored safety vests placed on the dashboard. A smaller number of vehicles had MBTA parking stickers for locations such as "Wellington" or "Forest Hills."

- Anecdotal evidence suggests that a greater number of vehicles park at this lot in the evenings when there is a sporting event taking place at the nearby TDGarden.

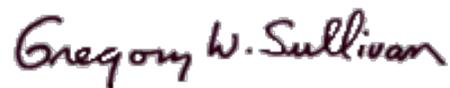
The OIG is concerned that unauthorized persons and off-duty MBTA employees could be taking advantage of the MBTA's irregular vehicle identification and enforcement practices. Owing to the cost of daily and event parking in the area, there could be substantial financial benefit to any unauthorized users.

The OIG is also concerned that misuse could extend to other MBTA properties throughout the greater Boston area.

The OIG is requesting that the MBTA review this matter and provide this Office with a response regarding both the property in question and the MBTA's overall policies regarding the use and enforcement of parking at MBTA facilities and "MBTA Only" parking areas.

Thank you for your cooperation. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,



Gregory W. Sullivan  
Inspector General

Attachment

Cc: Rachael Rollins, General Counsel, MassDOT

Source: Google Maps – Address: Valenti Way, Boston Massachusetts  
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