Case 499-Accounting/Audit Irregularities

Reminders Join Chat Print & Download Delete Case

Opened
02/23/2026
Days Open
Less than 24 hours
Last modified
02/24/2026
Intake Method
Hotline Web
Status
In Process

Alert Status
None

Case Details

New Translation

View Versions

Reported tier information

Case type:
Allegation

Intake method:
Hotline Web

Location

Organization/Building name:
City of Las Cruces, NM

Branch Number:
1

Location name:
City Hall

Location/Address:
City Hall - 1
700 N. Main Street

City:
Las Cruces

State/Province:
NM

ZIP/Postal code:
88001

Country/Territory:
United States

Location Name:
City Hall

Reporter Information

Reporter anonymous:
Yes

Case Information

Relationship to the Company or Organization?
Employee

Please identify the person(s) engaged in this behavior:
Vanessa King - Facilities Manager
Sonya Delgado - ACM
Daivd Sedillo - ACM

Do you suspect or know that a supervisor or management is involved?
Yes

If yes, then who?
All parties mentioned are supervisors: Assistant City Manager Sonya Delgado, Facilities Administrator Vanessa King, and Interim Assistant City Manager David Sedillo.

Is management aware of this problem?
Yes

What is the general nature of this matter?
On or about late 2023 or early 2024, the Las Cruces City Council appropriated several hundred thousand dollars for facility upgrades, maintenance, and improvements, including the replacement of water fountains and lighting upgrades.

Serious concerns have arisen regarding the management and oversight of these funds under Assistant City Manager Sonya Delgado, Facilities Administrator Vanessa King, and former Public Works Director (now Interim Assistant City Manager) David Sedillo.

Potential Conflict of Interest

It has been reported that Ms. King participated in the selection process for the contractor responsible for replacing the water fountains while also expressing favorable opinions about that contractor to staff. These circumstances raise concerns regarding a potential conflict of interest in the procurement process. Thousands of dollars were expended for the replacement of water fountains under this contract.

Pricing and Installation Concerns

The replacement fountains were reportedly procured at costs significantly above prevailing market rates—estimated at nearly two to three times the typical cost at the time. Additionally, many units were allegedly not installed properly. Required inspections appear to have been delayed or insufficient, resulting in ongoing operational issues that persist.

There are communications indicating that Ms. Delgado, Mr. Sedillo, and Ms. King were aware of the deficiencies in the installation and performance. It is further alleged that this information was not fully disclosed to Public Works staff when they were later directed to assess and remedy the issues. When Public Works personnel identified contractor installation and performance concerns, it is alleged that relevant background information was not transparently shared. This has raised concerns about potential efforts to minimize or obscure earlier oversight failures which amounts to negligence.

Oversight and Performance Concerns

Additional concerns have been raised regarding Ms. King's performance, including reports of lack of responsiveness, frequent absences, and insufficient oversight of facilities projects. It is alleged that this conduct was known to, and tolerated by, Ms. Delgado and now Mr. Sedillo.

Request for Audit and Investigation

Given the seriousness of these matters, including potential waste of public funds, procurement irregularities, inadequate oversight, and possible concealment of material information, I request that the City Auditor and/or Inspector General initiate a comprehensive audit and investigation.

Such review should include:

The procurement and contractor selection process

Pricing comparisons and cost justification

Contract compliance and installation standards

Inspection procedures and timelines

Corrective actions taken and current operational status of the fountains

Relevant communications among leadership including all relevant communications between Ms. Delgado, Ms. King, Mr Sedillo, Public Works staff, Facilities staff, Parks and Recreation staff and the contractors involved.

Ms. King's time and attendance records

The public deserves transparency, accountability, and responsible stewardship of taxpayer funds. In the spirit of adelante con cariño, a thorough and independent review will help restore confidence and ensure appropriate corrective measures are taken.

Where did this incident or violation occur?
City hall and various City facilities

Please provide the specific or approximate time this incident occurred:
Fall 2024

How long do you think this problem has been going on?
Don't know

How did you become aware of this violation?
I observed it

Please identify any persons who have attempted to conceal this problem and the steps they took to conceal it:
All parties mentioned tried to conceal it: Assistant City Manager Sonya Delgado, Facilities Administrator Vanessa King, and Interim Assistant City Manager David Sedillo.

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Legacy information