



CITY OF DETROIT OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL

Ellen Ha, Esq., CIG
Inspector General

Kamau C. Marable, MA, CIG
Deputy Inspector General

For Immediate Release: November 30, 2023
For further information, contact: Jennifer Bentley
(313) 628-5758
bentleyj@detoig.org

Statement on the Interim Suspension of Detroit Environmental Solutions, LLC., David Gillespie, and Any Companies They Have Ownership or Financial Interest In

Pursuant to Section 17-5-360 of the City of Detroit Debarment Ordinance (“Debarment Ordinance”) and for the reasons stated below, the City of Detroit Office of Inspector General (OIG) is issuing interim suspensions for Detroit Environmental Solutions, LLC. (DES), David Gillespie, and any companies they have ownership or financial interest in.

On November 30, 2023, the Michigan Department of Attorney General announced Criminal Enterprise and False Pretense charges against David Gillespie, the owner of DES. It is alleged that Mr. Gillespie conducted a scheme in which he operated DES and fraudulently purported it to be a distinct entity from another business, BBEK Environmental (BBEK). This allowed BBEK and DES to satisfy the requirements of the Hardest Hit Fund (HHF) demolition contracts procured by BBEK that required air quality monitoring be conducted by an independent third party. This is an important requirement when dealing with asbestos and other harmful particles. Further, it was alleged that DES was funded by and operated by principals of BBEK with the intent to keep air testing expenses within the scope of revenue for BBEK.

The asbestos abatement process, including air monitoring tests, involve the health and safety of our residents. Therefore, the OIG finds it is in the public interest to suspend DES and David Gillespie from conducting business with the City and not award either party any City contracts pending the finalization of the OIG’s investigation.

Pursuant to Section 17-5-360(b) of the Debarment Ordinance, this interim suspension is for the lesser of an initial period of 90 calendar days or until the Inspector General makes a final determination with respect to debarment. Therefore, in accordance with Section 17-5-360(a)(1) and (2) of the Debarment Ordinance, DES and Mr. Gillespie are suspended from eligibility for any City contracts. Lastly, effective immediately, pursuant to Section 17-5-354(b) of the Debarment Ordinance, DES and David Gillespie are precluded from serving as a “subcontractor or as a goods, services, or materials supplier for any contract” for the City of Detroit.

###