

Memorandum



CITY OF DALLAS
(Report No. I14-002)

DATE: May 19, 2014

TO: Honorable Mayor Michael S. Rawlings
Honorable Jerry Allen, Chairman – Budget, Finance & Audit Committee
Warren M.S. Ernst, City Attorney

SUBJECT: Investigative Report:
Department of Dallas Water Utilities – Disrupting Public Utilities

Council Resolution 90-4027 requires the Office of the City Auditor (Office) to report to the Mayor, the Chair of the City Council Budget, Finance & Audit Committee, and the City Attorney any apparent violations of law, apparent instances of misfeasance or nonfeasance by City of Dallas (City) employees. This memorandum summarizes the results of an administrative review of allegations and State criminal charges involving Mr. Mark Coleman, Meter Reader, for the Department of Dallas Water Utilities (DWU).

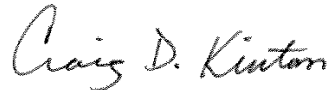
On September 19, 2013, DWU Management reported to the Office that Mr. Coleman approached a City citizen who was moving into a rental home and told her he could “set up” her water account for \$20. Mr. Coleman, without City authorization, turned on the water to the citizen’s home. Each month thereafter, Mr. Coleman returned to the citizen’s home to collect her cash payment of \$40. The citizen initially was willing to cooperate with the City to investigate Mr. Coleman. On September 19, 2013, the Dallas Police Department – Public Integrity Unit (DPD-PIU) began its investigation of Mr. Coleman’s activities.

In January 2014, DPD-PIU sent a memo to the Office stating that due to lack of witness cooperation with the investigation, DPD-PIU was unable to determine if Mr. Coleman committed a crime. Meanwhile, DWU Management was conducting a review of water accounts and found Mr. Coleman’s residence had a tampered water meter resulting in zero water consumption for a number of years. The DWU Management provided information and assisted DPD Southeast Patrol Division Detectives in obtaining evidence. The criminal investigation revealed that Mr. Coleman committed the offense of disrupting public utilities and, by doing so, had received an economic benefit by tampering with the City’s water meter designed to gauge the amount of water usage at his residence.

On February 28, 2014, Mr. Coleman was arrested on a felony criminal mischief charge for disrupting public utilities. The DWU Management notified the Office of the events involving Mr. Coleman and the criminal charge of disrupting public utilities.

The DWU Management terminated Mr. Coleman's employment effective close of business March 11, 2014. Additionally, DWU Management committed to continued notification to the Office of any apparent violations of law, apparent instances of misfeasance or nonfeasance by City employees.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Craig D. Kinton".

Craig D. Kinton
City Auditor

C: Honorable Members of the City Council
A.C. Gonzalez, City Manager
Forest Turner, Assistant City Manager
Jo (Jody) M. Puckett, Director – Department of Dallas Water Utilities