

Memorandum



CITY OF DALLAS
(Report No. I14-008)

DATE: July 14, 2014

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

SUBJECT: Investigative Report:
Department of Communication and Information Services –
Insurance Fraud and Theft by a Public Servant

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 report summarizes the results of the Office's investigation of Ms. Equeria Coffee, Programmer Analyst II, for the Department of Communication and Information Services (CIS).

On July 22, 2013, the Office received a complaint alleging Ms. Coffee intentionally destroyed a City-owned Dell laptop computer issued to her by CIS. The Office contacted the Complainant, and he informed the Office that the Dell laptop computer was discarded at Ms. Coffee's request in bushes behind a business on Malcolm X Boulevard. On July 24, 2013, the Office Investigative staff and Dallas Police Department-Public Integrity Unit (DPD-PIU) officers went to the location and retrieved the Dell laptop computer. On July 24, 2013, DPD-PIU began a criminal investigation.

Around June 24 or 25, 2013, Ms. Coffee reported to a CompuCom employee, a third party vendor, that the Dell laptop computer assigned to her had been stolen from her vehicle on June 24, 2013. The CompuCom employee and Ms. Coffee's supervisor both requested a copy of the police report regarding the theft of the City-owned Dell laptop computer; however, Ms. Coffee never provided a police report to either.

In the course of the DPD-PIU investigation, it was discovered that Ms. Coffee filed an insurance claim with State Farm Insurance seeking reimbursement for stolen property, including the City-owned Dell laptop computer which she listed as her personal property. State Farm Insurance settled Ms. Coffee's insurance claim, and she received \$334.49 for the City-owned Dell laptop computer. Ms. Coffee did not reimburse the City for the City-owned laptop computer.

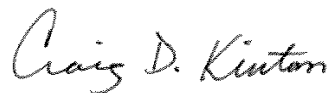
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On February 28, 2014, an arrest warrant for Insurance Fraud and Theft by a Public Servant was signed, and Ms. Coffee surrendered to authorities and was booked into Dallas County on these offenses. Those criminal charges are pending.

The CIS Management terminated Ms. Coffee's employment with the City effective May 31, 2014.

If you have any questions or would like to be briefed regarding this matter, please contact me at 214-670-3222 or Amy Messer, Assistant City Auditor, at 214-670-5347.

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
Jill A. Jordan, Assistant City Manager
William Finch, Director – Department of Communication and Information Services