



INSPECTOR GENERAL REPORT

2010-09-0224

October 14, 2011

INDOT GREENFIELD FUEL THEFT

Inspector General Staff Attorney Kristi Shute, after an investigation by Special Agent Darrell Boehmer, reports as follows:

In September of 2010, the Office of the Inspector General (“OIG”) received information from the Indiana Department of Transportation (“INDOT”) that one of its employees was suspected of committing acts of theft. INDOT Internal Affairs had conducted an audit and identified certain gasoline purchases as suspicious. It was alleged that the suspect employee was using his state issued fuel credit card to make unauthorized fuel purchases.

Director of Investigations and Special Agent Boehmer was assigned to investigate.

The OIG is charged to investigate criminal, ethics and efficiency issues within the Executive Branch of state government. IC 4-2-7-3.

During the investigation, Special Agent Boehmer learned that, as a Highway Technician and Inspector for INDOT, the employee was issued a Wright

Express (“WEX”) fuel credit card to purchase fuel for INDOT vehicles. Each WEX fuel card assigned to INDOT employees has their name on it along with a unique number associated with that employee. When making a purchase, an employee swipes the WEX card and then enters the vehicle number and mileage.

Upon being hired, the employee signed the INDOT Fuel Program Acknowledgment for the Receipt of WEX Fuel Card and Proper Usage form. This form outlines the policies for using the fuel credit card. Paragraph two (2) of this policy states that “Any use of the Fuel Card for purposes other than official INDOT business constitutes Theft.”

While performing a statewide fuel audit, INDOT Internal Affairs identified suspicious fuel transactions made by the employee. The investigation revealed that the employee purchased fuel on sick days, vacation days, holidays and regular days off. The employee did not have a take-home vehicle and was not authorized to operate any INDOT vehicle when he was not working. In addition, the employee made unleaded fuel purchases entering a vehicle identification number for a vehicle that only uses diesel fuel.

Subpoenas seeking video surveillance were served on two service stations where the most recent questionable purchases were made. The employee was seen making purchases for non-INDOT vehicles on some of the surveillance videos. While the vehicles involved could not initially be identified as the employee’s, the three vehicles were similar to the vehicles owned by the employee.

Special Agent Boehmer then met the employee as he arrived for work and asked the employee if they could talk. The employee agreed and they went into a private office. Special Agent Boehmer identified himself and told the employee that he was not in custody and that he did not have to talk to him. He then asked for the employee's WEX card. The employee removed his WEX card from his wallet and handed it to Special Agent Boehmer. He also had the employee identify the INDOT Fuel Program Acknowledgment form that he signed when he was issued the WEX card.

Special Agent Boehmer asked the employee if he kept his WEX card in his wallet and whether anyone else had access to his WEX card. The employee stated that no one else had access to his WEX card. The employee also could not explain purchases made with his WEX card when he was on days off, vacation days and for equipment that required diesel fuel.

Special Agent Boehmer then showed the employee still photographs taken from surveillance video from one of the Service Stations. The employee identified himself in one of the photos. This photo was taken from surveillance video during one of the questionable purchases. The employee then admitted using his WEX card for personal purchases.

Special Agent Boehmer determined that there were 39 unauthorized purchases made for 446.244 gallons of unleaded fuel at a total cost to the State of \$990.23.

This case was submitted to the Marion County Prosecuting Attorney's

Office. Charges of Corrupt Business Influence, Theft and Official Misconduct were filed. Accordingly, this investigation is closed.

Dated this 14th day of October, 2011.

APPROVED BY:

/s/ David O. Thomas, Inspector General