

4/11/09

I need to bring to your attention a very serious matter regarding [REDACTED]. Please ensure that this issue is thoroughly investigated and that [REDACTED] and any others involved are held accountable for their actions.

[REDACTED], willfully and fraudulently stole Franklin County funds by falsifying a transaction (voucher) to purchase tires from [REDACTED]. This amount is somewhere between \$21,000 - \$40,000. The voucher was paid by Franklin County for tires; tires that didn't exist, and that Franklin County never received. Approximately 1.5 years ago, [REDACTED] who worked at the tire store told [REDACTED] that he was short a large sum of money in sales. [REDACTED] then lied, and falsified the documentation to purchase tires; the money to be paid to the tire store. [REDACTED] no longer works at [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] who owned the tire store, had to close its doors. [REDACTED] may have paid [REDACTED] off what he owed him. [REDACTED] previously worked at [REDACTED] in Pasco prior to going to work at [REDACTED].

There are other employees in the county that have knowledge of [REDACTED] illegal transaction(s). I would encourage whomever investigates this issue to talk to [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] is related to [REDACTED]. Coincidentally, [REDACTED] was hired approximately 1.5 years ago. I also would encourage whomever investigates this issue to look further than this one incident. I'm sure you will find discrepancies and/or other schemes that [REDACTED] is involved in to steal money from Franklin County to support his gambling. Maybe the investigation should be conducted by the State Auditor's Department of Internal Fraud.

I wonder how [REDACTED] can sleep at nights. I don't want this issue swept under the carpet.

Other information that may be of importance:

On 12/15/86, [REDACTED] was convicted in the U.S. Federal Court in Montana for felony embezzlement, willfully and knowingly stealing monies of the United States, U.S. Federal Court Docket - CR86-21BLG-JFB, U.S. Federal Court Judge Battin. On 2/20/07, [REDACTED] was committed to Federal prison and released on 9/12/88. [REDACTED] Federal Inmate Register number is [REDACTED], which can be found on the Federal Inmate Locator web site.

My questions to you are:

1. Did [REDACTED] disclose on his employment application that he had been previously convicted of a felony? The Franklin County Employment Application states "I certify that all statements above are true to the best of my knowledge. In the event of employment, I understand that false or misleading statements shall be sufficient cause for termination."
2. If [REDACTED] did disclose his felony conviction, why would Franklin County hire an employee with a Federal embezzlement conviction into an [REDACTED] position where he would have the authority to make financial decisions and handle a substantial amount of funds?