

Brad Peck

From: Brad Peck
Sent: Thursday, February 02, 2012 11:25 AM
To: All
Subject: Investigations Underway at Franklin County



Dear Franklin County Employees,

By now you may have heard rumors of activities involving our county public works department.

Here is what I am able to report to you at this point in time.

Reports of possible theft of County funds has triggered a criminal investigation. A separate internal investigation is being conducted as well.

In order to preserve the integrity of the investigation, a number of employees are being placed on administrative leave. It would be improper to presume that any person who is on administrative leave is in any way being accused of wrong doing. Additionally, the chain of command associated with Public Works is being temporarily modified up to and including the County Administrator.

The Board of Commissioners has determined that the appropriate point of contact on this matter is me in my role as the Board Chairman.

It is imperative that confidentiality of this matter be preserved. You are directed not to discuss this matter with anyone subject to the following exceptions. You may discuss this matter with your spouse, attorney, union representative (if applicable), clergy, counselor, the police and the County's investigator. You are reminded that you are not to speak to the media on the County's behalf. If anyone attempts to communicate with you about this matter you are directed to immediately report the attempt to me, Brad Peck, Chairman of the Board of County Commissioners. I can be reached at (509) 727-2808.

It is our goal to conduct the investigation as thoroughly and promptly as possible. The County appreciates your patience as we work through this trying time. I want to remind you about the County Whistleblower Policy. Review of the policy reveals that contact information for reporting concerns may not be current. If applicable contact information is not current for you, you can raise your concerns directly with me or through the Prosecutor's Office. The County takes protection of those who disclose wrongdoing seriously and is committed to ensuring the protections called for in applicable law and policy.

The County is actively working on a plan for interim Public Works leadership. In the meantime, please continue fulfilling your duties. If you need direction or guidance before an interim director is put in place, please contact me.

I will provide further information as it becomes releasable. I expect the investigations now underway will take weeks or perhaps months to complete. I cannot tell you at this time when additional updates will be available.

Thank you for your patience and understanding.

Brad Peck, Chairman
Board of Commissioners