



## INSPECTOR GENERAL REPORT

2007-12-0274

June 5, 2009

### INDOT IDENTITY THEFT

*Inspector General Staff Attorney Todd Shumaker, after an investigation by Special Agent Chuck Coffin, reports as follows:*

On December 13, 2007, the Office of the Inspector General (OIG) was notified by the Chief Information Security Officer for the Indiana Office of Technology (IOT) of a trouble ticket received by IOT that referenced a law enforcement investigation. Specifically, the ticket was submitted by a Detective with the Johnson County Sheriff's Department (Detective) regarding the origin of the IP address of a state computer that was used to make magazine purchases in an identity theft case.

Special Agent Chuck Coffin was assigned, coordinated an investigation with the Detective and agreed to address the employment-related criminal, ethics and administrative violations of the case while the Detective would pursue criminal allegations. Special Agent Coffin conducted interviews, reviewed documents, and found the IP address had been issued to IOT and assigned to a state employee within the Indiana Department of Transportation (INDOT).

Special Agent Coffin interviewed the INDOT employee (Employee) who confessed to ordering at least twenty-three items in the name of the victim and the victim's husband, the victim being a supervisor from the Employee's previous place of employment. The Employee also admitted to forging the victim's name on advertising cards used to place the orders, and further admitted that on October 4, 2007, she used her state computer to place two magazine orders in the victim's name and did so on state time.

The OIG is responsible for addressing fraud, waste, abuse and wrongdoing in agencies. IC 4-2-7-2(b). The OIG is authorized to coordinate and supervise investigations, IC 4-2-7-3(1), and is also charged to investigate criminal offenses and violations of the Code of Ethics by state employees. IC 4-2-7-3.

In this case, felony criminal charges for forgery and official misconduct were filed by the Detective against the Employee with the Johnson County Prosecuting Attorney's Office. After a public hearing held on May 8, 2008, the State Ethics Commission (SEC) also found probable cause for an ethics violation as a result of Special Agent Coffin's investigation. Specifically, the SEC determined that the Employee's actions in placing orders for the two magazine subscriptions from her state computer exceeded the State's and INDOT's de minimus use policies and therefore constituted a violation of the rule regarding the use of state property in 42 IAC 1-5-12. The SEC ordered the Employee to pay restitution in the amount of \$1,000 to the victim and also ordered the Employee to draft letters of apology directed to both the INDOT Commissioner and to the victim and her husband.

With criminal charges filed and a disposition by the SEC, this investigation is closed.

Dated this 5<sup>th</sup> day of June, 2009.

APPROVED BY:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "David O. Thomas", written in a cursive style.

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David O. Thomas, Inspector General