



INSPECTOR GENERAL REPORT

2009-04-0071

September 21, 2009

IWM CREDIT ACCOUNT THEFT

Inspector General Staff Attorney Todd Shumaker, after an investigation by Special Agents Chuck Coffin and Mark Mitchell, reports as follows:

On April 8, 2009, the Human Resources Director and Chief Financial Officer (CFO) with the Indiana War Memorials (IWM) contacted the Office of the Inspector General (OIG) regarding possible theft committed by using IWM's credit account with Lowe's Home Improvement Store (Lowe's). Specifically, the CFO reported that unauthorized purchases had been made on IWM's Lowe's account by someone purporting to be an IWM employee.

The OIG is a law enforcement agency which is "responsible for addressing fraud, waste, abuse, and wrongdoing in agencies." IC 4-2-7-2(b).

In the course of their investigation, OIG Special Agents Chuck Coffin and Mark Mitchell conducted interviews, reviewed documents, executed warrants, and found the following. The unauthorized purchases had been made by a former inmate at the Indiana Women's Prison (Suspect) who had worked at IWM on a work release crew at which time she had accessed IWM's credit account

information with Lowe's. After arranging with Lowe's by telephone for the purchase and pick-up of the items, the Suspect contacted both an acquaintance to rent a moving truck to facilitate the pick-up of the items and another acquaintance to drive the truck for her. Neither of the acquaintances was aware of the illicit nature of the transaction.

Special Agents Coffin and Mitchell executed a search warrant at the residence rented by the Suspect and recovered a majority of the items fraudulently purchased at Lowe's. The Suspect was arrested and charged by the Marion County Prosecuting Attorney's Office with Forgery, a class C felony; Theft/Receiving Stolen Property, a class D felony; and Identity Deception, a class D felony. No loss was suffered to the State due to the timely reporting of the unauthorized purchases by IWM.

Dated this 21st day of September, 2009.

APPROVED BY:



David O. Thomas, Inspector General