



INSPECTOR GENERAL REPORT

2010-03-0070

June 23, 2010

INDOT INDIANAPOLIS FUEL THEFT

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

On March 29, 2010, the Office of the Inspector General (“OIG”) received information stating that a former Indiana Department of Transportation (“INDOT”) seasonal employee was suspected of committing acts of theft. It was alleged that the former seasonal employee used his state issued fuel credit card to make unauthorized fuel purchases.

The OIG is a law enforcement agency charged to conduct activities designed to deter, detect, and eradicate fraud, waste, abuse, mismanagement, and misconduct in state government. IC 4-2-7-3(2).

Special Agent Darrell Boehmer was assigned. During the course of the investigation, Special Agent Boehmer learned that, as a Truck Driver for INDOT, the employee was issued a Wright Express (“WEX”) fuel credit card with a unique number to purchase fuel for INDOT vehicles he was assigned to operate. The vehicles the former employee was assigned to operate only used diesel fuel.

Upon his hire, the former employee signed the INDOT Fuel Program Acknowledgment for the Receipt of WEX Fuel Card and Proper Usage form which outlined the policies for using the fuel credit card. Paragraph two of this policy states that “Any use of the Fuel Card for purposes other than official INDOT business constitutes Theft.”

Subpoenas were issued to the service stations where suspect purchases, using the former employee’s fuel card, were made. There were a total of 15 security videos obtained from the different locations where suspect purchases were made. In all of these videos, a red SUV was observed. In some of the videos, the suspect was wearing a dark hooded jacket with white lining.

Subsequently, an INDOT Deputy Commissioner was interviewed because she was listed as the former employee’s emergency contact. She stated that the former employee was her sister’s fiancée. She advised that her sister was using their father’s red Dodge Durango. The Commissioner was shown still photos of the red SUV taken from the surveillance video. She stated that the vehicle was similar to her father’s. She was also shown still photos of the suspect who she identified as the former employee.

Likewise, the former employee’s fiancée was interviewed. She was shown still photos of the red SUV and identified the vehicle as the Dodge Durango she drives. She advised that her fiancée had permission to use the vehicle. She was also shown still photos of the suspect who she identified as her fiancée.

In addition, two of the former employee's supervisors were interviewed and they identified the suspect in the still photos as the former employee. Furthermore, the former employee's driver's license photo shows him wearing a dark jacket with a white lined hood.

Consequently, Special Agent Boehmer interviewed the former employee to see if he could explain the purchases, and he admitted that the red SUV in the photographs was his fiancée's and that he was the person illegally purchasing the fuel.

Special Agent Boehmer determined that there were 133 unauthorized purchases made for 1,863.66 gallons of unleaded fuel at a total cost to the State of \$4,699.55.

This case was submitted to the Marion County Prosecuting Attorney's Office and criminal charges were filed in June of 2010. Accordingly, this investigation is closed.

Dated this 23rd day of June, 2010.

APPROVED BY:



David O. Thomas, Inspector General