



INSPECTOR GENERAL REPORT

2005-09-0485

March 12, 2008

INDIANA WOMEN'S COMMISSION FUNDS

Inspector General David O. Thomas and Staff Attorney Amanda Schaeffer, after an investigation by Special Agent Dave Clark, report as follows:

Kimberly Thacker worked as Director of Programs at the Indiana Women's Commission ("IWC") until March of 2005, when she turned in her resignation. She cited employment in Atlanta, Louisiana as her reason for leaving.

In March of 2005, Kimberly Thacker received a check from the Indiana Women's History Association for \$8,395 that was meant to go to the IWC. However, Kimberly Thacker deposited this check in her own personal bank account. Later that month, she submitted \$6,200 to the IWC as opposed to the entire amount of the check. She did not account for the missing funds of \$2,195.

In April of 2005, Kimberly Thacker started work at Thacker Operating Company in Atlanta, Louisiana. In August of 2005, Kimberly Thacker began work in New Orleans, also for the Thacker Company, but this time under the name of Thacker Construction Group. In June of 2005, Kimberly Thacker applied for welfare and unemployment benefits from the state of Indiana. In her

application, she stated that she resided in Indiana and also that she was unemployed. Kimberly Thacker received welfare and unemployment benefits from September of 2005 through February of 2006.

The Office of the Inspector General (OIG) referred these findings and its investigation to the Marion County Prosecutor's Office for criminal prosecution. Prosecution was declined and the OIG next submitted the case to the State Ethics Commission (Commission) with a written complaint alleging a violation of 42 IAC 1-5-12 (use of state property) as a violation of the Code of Ethics. Kimberly Thacker was notified of the ethics complaint pursuant to Indiana law and by personal service in Louisiana, yet she failed to appear at her scheduled hearing in Indiana. A hearing on the complaint proceeded in her absence and evidence in support of the complaint was submitted by OIG attorney Amanda Schaeffer. The Commission found that there was sufficient evidence by a preponderance of the evidence to support the complaint, and a fine was imposed against Kimberly Thacker by the Commission in the amount of \$2,893. She was further banned for life from future employment with the State of Indiana.

Dated this 12th day of March, 2008.



David O. Thomas, Inspector General