



# INVESTIGATIVE REPORT

Lori Torres, Inspector General

OFFICE: INDIANA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES (DNR)  
TITLE: DNR EMPLOYEE THEFT  
CASE ID: 2020-01-0024  
DATE: June 16, 2020

*Indiana Office of Inspector General Staff Attorney Lyubov Gore, after an investigation by Inspector General Special Agent Michael Lepper, reports as follows:*

The Indiana General Assembly charged the Office of the Indiana Inspector General (OIG) with addressing fraud, waste, abuse and wrongdoing in the executive branch agencies of state government. Ind. Code §4-2-7-2(b). The OIG also investigates allegations of criminal activity and Code of Ethics (Code) violations within state government. Ind. Code §4-2-7-3.

On January 24, 2020, the OIG received a complaint regarding Clayton Corey, a former Indiana Department of Natural Resources (DNR) Park Security Officer at Turkey Run State Park and Shades State Park (Parks). The complaint alleged that, while on duty, Corey had driven a DNR-issued vehicle off of the Parks' grounds on multiple occasions during the first two months of his employment as a Park Security Officer. After an internal DNR investigation, DNR terminated Corey.

OIG Special Agent Michael Lepper conducted an investigation into this matter. Special Agent Lepper examined documents related to Corey's employment and termination, DNR policies related to the use of state-owned vehicles and Gauge Smart Hub reports, which tracked Corey's movements in the DNR-issued vehicle. Special Agent Lepper learned that Corey was promoted to the Park Security Officer position on November 4, 2019. Special Agent Lepper's analysis of the Gauge Smart Hub reports on the days Corey was on duty revealed a total of four instances in which

Corey used the DNR-issued vehicle to travel to Crawfordsville, specifically on November 17, 2019; November 29, 2019; December 12, 2019; and December 19, 2019. Special Agent Lepper determined that Crawfordsville is approximately twelve miles away from the closest point on the Parks' grounds and that Corey was away from his DNR duties for approximately eight hours in total during these drives off of the Parks' grounds. Based on his review of Corey's employment records, Special Agent Lepper calculated that Corey received approximately \$96.00 in wages for the eight hours he was not executing his duties and benefited from approximately \$24.00 in fuel costs for the vehicle drives, resulting in a theft of approximately \$120.00 of state funds and resources.

Special Agent Lepper interviewed the Parks' Property Manager, the Parks' Assistant Property Manager and Corey. The Parks' Property Manager and Assistant Property Manager confirmed the information in the documentation Special Agent Lepper reviewed. The Assistant Property Manager explained to Special Agent Lepper that he discovered Corey's actions on December 19, 2019, when he personally observed Corey leaving the Parks' grounds in a DNR-issued vehicle and then tracked Corey's location using the Gauge Smart Hub. The Property Managers indicated that there were no problems at the Parks during Corey's unauthorized travels. Special Agent Lepper confirmed with the Property Managers that Corey was aware of the Parks' policies regarding the use of state property, including state-owned vehicles.

Special Agent Lepper also interviewed Corey. Corey admitted to driving the DNR-issued vehicle off of the Parks' grounds to Crawfordsville on four occasions to meet with friends and tutors. Corey also admitted that he knew he was not supposed to use the DNR-issued vehicle for personal use. Corey confirmed that he had driven approximately twelve miles away from the

Parks' grounds on each trip and acknowledged that the State paid him for about eight hours of work that he had not performed.

The OIG submitted the results of this investigation to the Parke County Prosecutor's Office. On May 26, 2020, the Parke County Prosecutor's Office charged Corey with Theft, as a Class A Misdemeanor under Ind. Code § 35-33-4-2(a). Accordingly, this investigation is closed.

Dated: June 16, 2020

APPROVED BY:

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Lori Torres". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

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Lori Torres, Inspector General