

Memorandum

To: Mr. Edward Fitzgerald, County Executive

From: Mrs. Nailah Byrd, Inspector General 

CC: File

Date: September 14, 2011

Re: Mark Lime- Clerk of Courts Investigation

Notice:

On August 19, 2011, the Cuyahoga County Inspector General met with Mr. Keith Hurley, Chief of Staff for the Clerk of Courts and Clerk of Courts Human Resources representative Mr. Tim Brennan regarding allegations involving Mark Lime, Director for the Clerk of Courts Criminal Division. Specifically, Mr. Hurley and Mr. Brennan advised that they received an allegation that Mr. Lime was stealing cash bond forfeiture payments from the Clerk of Courts Criminal Division.

The OIG initiated an investigation into the allegations. To assist, the Cuyahoga County Inspector General engaged Mr. Matthew Hawes, Assistant Law Director for Cuyahoga County. Mr. Hawes was asked to assist not only because of the need and strong preference for two individuals to conduct interviews, but also because of Mr. Hawes' level of experience. Mr. Hawes was previously employed with the Cuyahoga County Department of Human Resources where he conducted investigations.

Mr. Hawes and the Cuyahoga County Inspector General conducted eight (8) employee interviews, including Mr. Lime, along with two interviews of representatives from two different bond companies. In addition, both Mr. Hawes and the Cuyahoga County Inspector General reviewed video tapes and various documents, including dockets, cashier receipts and reports.

The Cuyahoga County Inspector General is in agreement with Mr. Hawes' internal investigation report dated September 13, 2011 and adopts it as the official report and findings of the Office of the Inspector General. There is strong evidence in support of the allegation that Mr. Lime stole money from the Criminal Division of the Clerk of Courts Office.

It is the recommendation of the Office of the Inspector General that the following be done:

- Referral to County Prosecutor's Office for review for criminal prosecution;
- Referral to County Executive for disciplinary action including termination;

- Correction of applicable Criminal Court dockets by the Clerk's office to ensure that the bonding company is not held liable for missing payments; and
- Engagement of Cuyahoga County Fiscal Officer and/or an outside consultant to review the cash management processes at the Criminal Division of the Clerks Office. In addition to the Bond Forfeiture Judgments and Criminal Reparation Fees mentioned in the attached report, this review should specifically address the overage/underage policies and the auditing procedures of the Criminal Division of the Clerk's Office.

Office of the Inspector General

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