



Justin P. Wilson, Comptroller

August 19, 2015

Former Knox County Schools Employee Uses School Credit Card for Online Gambling

A special investigation by the Tennessee Comptroller's Office has revealed that Roger Underwood, the former accounts payable supervisor for Knox County Schools stole money. Investigators found that Underwood used at least two schemes to carry out the theft of public funds. This investigation was completed in conjunction with the Knox County Sheriff's Department.

Investigators discovered that Roger Underwood made personal charges totaling at least \$10,445 on a Knox County Schools credit card. Mr. Underwood disclosed that many of these charges were for online gambling. This included up to 14 separate charges totaling almost \$1,800 in a single day.

Additionally, Mr. Underwood received duplicate reimbursement of \$1,544 for lodging and meal expenses for at least three school system related trips. Mr. Underwood charged the expenses to a Knox County Schools credit card, and also requested and received reimbursement from Knox County Schools for these trips. Investigators noted that several of the meals Mr. Underwood charged to the school system credit card appeared excessive. Some of these meals included inappropriate alcohol purchases.

Investigators also questioned \$731 in charges to Mr. Underwood's Knox County Schools credit card for a retirement reception in Biloxi, Mississippi. The reception charges included hors d'oeuvres, wine and beer. This reception was not for a Knox County Schools employee.

In August 2015, Roger Underwood was indicted by the Knox County Grand Jury on one count of theft over \$10,000.

"I hope Knox County Schools will take steps to improve the oversight of its credit cards and travel expenses," Comptroller Justin P. Wilson said. "Government has an obligation to prevent the loss of public funds."

To view the special investigation online, go to: <http://www.comptroller.tn.gov/ia/>.

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