



State of Tennessee

Justin Wilson, State Comptroller

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FORMER LAKEWOOD CLERK ARRESTED ON THEFT CHARGES

Former Lakewood City Clerk Patricia Anderson has been arrested on theft charges following cooperative work between the state Comptroller's Division of Municipal Audit and the local district attorney's office.

Patricia Anderson was arrested last week on indictments for Theft of Property over \$10,000 and Forgery over \$10,000 while employed at the City of Lakewood.

"We are pleased with the cooperative efforts between our office and the office of the Comptroller of the Treasury," Assistant District Attorney General Jim Milam said. "Because of this partnership, we are able to pursue and prosecute cases of theft by public officials."

"I commend the District Attorney General's office for the fine work it has done on this case, in cooperation with our staff in the Division of Municipal Audit," Comptroller Justin Wilson said. "It is never acceptable for public officials to steal money that rightly belongs to the taxpayers. But particularly now, with economic times being so tough, it is especially important to combat the waste, fraud and misuse of public funds."

"I am glad to see that Ms. Anderson will be brought to justice in this matter and I commend General Milam for his willingness to take up the prosecution," says Dennis Dycus, Director of the Division of Municipal Audit. "A good way to deter public officials and employees from committing thefts and other crimes while in office is to punish them appropriately and show that no public employee is above the law."

State auditors released an investigative report in late 2009, detailing how Anderson took more than \$11,400 the city had collected from traffic fines and court costs and concealed the missing money by falsifying city business records.

The report alleges that Anderson failed to issue receipts for 22 payments amounting to \$3,953 and falsified deposit slips to conceal the theft. On 66 other occasions, Anderson forged the city's copies of receipts to show smaller amounts of money than she had actually collected. According

to the report, the 66 altered “short” receipts represented at least an additional \$7,126 of collections that Anderson failed to deposit into the city’s bank accounts.

Auditors also determined that Anderson posted false entries in the city court docket and altered court copies of traffic citations, causing them to appear to have been issued for offenses carrying smaller fines than those cited by the arresting officer.

The Comptroller’s report can be found at

<http://www.comptroller1.state.tn.us/repository/MA/lakewood3.pdf>

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