



**Justin P. Wilson, Comptroller**

June 2, 2017

## **Former Dance Team Booster Club Treasurer Steals \$11,000**

An investigation by the Tennessee Comptroller's Office has found that Charlene Wheeler, the former treasurer of the Arlington Middle School Dance Team Booster Club, stole at least \$11,059 from the booster club.

Wheeler used at least three schemes to steal money from April 2015 through December 2015.

Wheeler wrote booster club checks payable to herself, to cash, and to a local business and used the money for her own benefit. She also made personal purchases using the booster club's debit card, and made ATM withdrawals from the booster club's bank account.

Ms. Wheeler used the debit card to make purchases at Six Flags St. Louis, to pay her vehicle loan, and to pay for her utilities.



Wheeler admitted to Comptroller investigators that she used booster club funds for her own personal benefit and without the knowledge or authority of other booster club officials.

Investigators noted that, beginning in September 2015, Wheeler began making deposits into the club's bank account and paying booster club debt using her own money. These deposits and payments totaling \$7,276 are short of the amounts she stole.

In May 2017, Charlene Wheeler was indicted by the Shelby County Grand Jury on one count of theft over \$10,000.

"A few simple checks and balances can help prevent fraud," said Comptroller Justin P. Wilson. "In this case, having more than one person handle money and review bank statements would be appropriate. Booster club leaders should also be sure two signatures are included on all checks."

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

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