



CITY OF MORRISTOWN POLICE DEPARTMENT

Special Investigation
July 8, 2015

Justin P. Wilson, Comptroller





**STATE OF TENNESSEE
COMPTROLLER OF THE TREASURY**

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**Justin P. Wilson
Comptroller of the Treasury**

July 8, 2015

Honorable Mayor and Members
of the City Council
City of Morristown
P. O. Box 1499
Morristown, TN 37816-1499

Ladies and Gentlemen:

The Office of the Comptroller of the Treasury, in conjunction with the Tennessee Bureau of Investigation, conducted a special investigation of selected records of the City of Morristown Police Department, and the results are presented herein.

Copies of this report are being forwarded to Governor Bill Haslam, the State Attorney General, the District Attorney General, certain state legislators, and various other interested parties. A copy is available for public inspection in our office and may be viewed at <http://www.comptroller.tn.gov/ia/>.

Sincerely,

Comptroller of the Treasury

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SPECIAL INVESTIGATION

City of Morristown Police Department

The Office of the Comptroller of the Treasury, in conjunction with the Tennessee Bureau of Investigation, investigated allegations of malfeasance related to the City of Morristown Police Department.

INVESTIGATIVE RESULTS

- **Former police officer failed to deposit cash he collected for the return of seized vehicles totaling at least \$6,000**

During 2014 and 2015, former police Sgt. Michael Hurt failed to turn over cash totaling at least \$6,000 for deposit. Sgt. Hurt was responsible for returning to owners or lienholders vehicles seized by the police department. The vehicles were returned in accordance with orders from the Tennessee Department of Safety. Frequently, vehicle owners were required to pay the department a cash settlement. Sgt. Hurt collected the cash settlements as well as amounts to reimburse the police department for towing and storage. When he was interviewed by investigators regarding the missing money for the first time, Sgt. Hurt turned over \$5,500 in cash that he claimed he had been holding in his police department vehicle for as long as 35 days. The remaining \$500 in cash was not in Sgt. Hurt's police vehicle. In at least one instance, Sgt. Hurt acknowledged that he "renegotiated" and reduced the cash settlement ordered by the Department of Safety from \$5,000 down to \$1,500. Mr. Hurt altered records, failed to record or receipt the majority of the cash, and made a false entry in police department records in an apparent attempt to conceal his activities.

This matter was referred to the local district attorney general. On July 1, 2015, the Hamblen County Grand Jury indicted Michael Nelson Hurt on two counts of Theft over \$1,000, one count of Theft under \$500, and one count of Official Misconduct.