



MOUNT HOPEWELL COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

Special Investigation
July 12, 2016

Justin P. Wilson, Comptroller





**STATE OF TENNESSEE
COMPTROLLER OF THE TREASURY**

JAMES K. POLK STATE OFFICE BUILDING, SUITE 1600

505 DEADERICK STREET

NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE 37243-1402

PHONE (615) 401-7907

FAX (615) 532-4499

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

July 12, 2016

Commissioner E. Douglas Varney
Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services
Andrew Jackson Building, 6th Floor
500 Deaderick Street
Nashville, TN 37243

Dear Commissioner Varney:

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 Mount Hopewell Community Development Corporation, 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

JPW/RAD

SPECIAL INVESTIGATION

Mount Hopewell Community Development Corporation

The Office of the Comptroller of the Treasury, in conjunction with the Tennessee Bureau of Investigation, investigated allegations of malfeasance related to the Mount Hopewell Community Development Corporation.

INVESTIGATIVE RESULT

- **Addiction recovery program funds totaling at least \$62,075 diverted for personal use**

During the period January 2011 through March 2015, Clinton Lewis and Andre Trice misappropriated at least \$62,075 in state grant funds. The pair, doing business as Mount Hopewell Community Development Corporation¹, received funds to which they were not entitled through the Tennessee Addiction Recovery Program (ARP), a Tennessee Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse program. Mr. Lewis, who served as president, and Mr. Trice, who served as executive director, facilitated the misappropriation of these state grant funds by filing fraudulent requests for payment for addiction recovery services that were never provided. Several of the “clients” that Mr. Lewis and Mr. Trice reported to the state as receiving addiction recovery services were either deceased or incarcerated at the time of the supposed services. Other individuals that Mr. Lewis and Mr. Trice claimed were clients either had not received addiction recovery services for years or had never received these services. The grant funds were deposited into a bank account controlled by Mr. Lewis; he issued checks totaling \$60,445 from this account directly to himself and Mr. Trice.

In June 2016, the Davidson County Grand Jury indicted Clinton Lewis and Andre Trice on four counts each of Theft over \$10,000.

¹ Mr. Lewis changed the corporate name to Helping Our People Excel Community Development Corporation (HOPE) on April 17, 2015, and then filed to dissolve that corporation on April 24, 2015, according to records filed with the Tennessee Secretary of State.