



NEW JOHNSONVILLE POLICE DEPARTMENT

Comptroller's Investigative Report
September 14, 2018

Justin P. Wilson, Comptroller





JUSTIN P. WILSON
Comptroller

JASON E. MUMPOWER
Chief of Staff

September 14, 2018

Mayor and Members of the City Council
Police Chief Bronson Morgan
City of New Johnsonville
323 Long Street
New Johnsonville, TN 37134

Ladies and Gentlemen:

The Office of the Comptroller of the Treasury conducted an investigation of selected records of the New Johnsonville 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,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Justin P. Wilson", is written over a light gray rectangular background.

Justin P. Wilson
Comptroller of the Treasury

JPW/RAD

INVESTIGATIVE REPORT

New Johnsonville Police Department

The Office of the Comptroller of the Treasury investigated possible malfeasance related to a firearm missing from the New Johnsonville Police Department. The Comptroller's Office initiated the investigation after police department officials reported the missing firearm. During the investigation, the firearm was returned to the police department.

INVESTIGATIVE RESULT

- **A missing firearm was returned by former auxiliary police officer**

On June 27, 2018, a former New Johnsonville auxiliary police officer returned a department firearm that the police chief had determined was missing from the department's inventory. The department obtained the firearm, a Colt Model 1911 .45 caliber pistol, along with three other pistols of the same model, in July 2010 from the U.S. Military through a surplus property program. An inventory performed by police department personnel in November 2017 accounted for three of the Colt pistols but revealed that one firearm was not in police department custody. The department maintained neither a department-wide inventory nor individual officer logs and therefore could not identify to whom the missing Colt pistol had been issued.

The former officer, who left his auxiliary police position in the fall of 2017, advised police department officials in January 2018 that he had returned a Colt pistol to the police chief prior to leaving the police force. The former auxiliary police officer reasserted that claim to a Comptroller investigator on June 25, 2018. On June 27, 2018, however, the former auxiliary police officer returned the missing Colt pistol to the police department, advising that he discovered the firearm while looking through boxes at his house.



ADDITIONAL ISSUE

Our investigation revealed a deficiency in property accountability that contributed to the former auxiliary police officer retaining a department firearm after he left department service.

- Police department officials failed to properly document the issuance and return of firearms. In addition, the department failed to maintain inventory records of other equipment and property. As a result, the police department maintained inadequate records to effectively and efficiently establish responsibility for department firearms and other equipment and property. These failures significantly increased the risk of loss of department property.

Police department officials indicated that they have corrected the deficiency identified above.