



TOWN OF PITTMAN CENTER

Comptroller's Investigative Report
December 20, 2017

Justin P. Wilson, Comptroller





JUSTIN P. WILSON
Comptroller

JASON E. MUMPOWER
Chief of Staff

December 20, 2017

Mr. Charles Collum, Town Administrator
and
Mayor and Members of the Board of Aldermen
Town of Pittman Center
2839 Webb Creek Road
Pittman Center, TN 37876

Ladies and Gentlemen:

The Office of the Comptroller of the Treasury conducted an investigation of selected records of the Town of Pittman Center – Traffic Citations, 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", written over a light gray rectangular background.

Justin P. Wilson
Comptroller of the Treasury

JPW/RAD

INVESTIGATIVE REPORT

Town of Pittman Center – Traffic Citations

The Office of the Comptroller of the Treasury investigated allegations of malfeasance related to Town of Pittman Center traffic citations. The Comptroller’s Office initiated the investigation after town officials identified discrepancies related to traffic citation management and traffic fine collection.

INVESTIGATIVE RESULT

- **Traffic citation fines not deposited into town bank account**

During the period January 2015 through December 2016, town officials were unable to account for traffic fine collections totaling up to \$600, which had apparently been collected, but not receipted or deposited into a town bank account. The five related traffic citations had either been marked dismissed or included no payment information. An analysis of traffic court records as well as confirmations with the traffic offenders indicated that these fines were collected by town employees. Town officials should ensure that all fines collected are properly receipted and deposited into a town bank account.

ADDITIONAL ISSUES

Our investigation revealed deficiencies in financial and operational processes that contributed to the town’s failure to properly account for the collections noted above. These financial process deficiencies included:

- **Traffic citations with no apparent disposition recorded in court docket**

At least 284 traffic citations issued between January 2015 and December 2016 had no disposition recorded on the court docket. Town officials should ensure that employees record the disposition of every issued citation in the court docket. Fine payment information, including amount and date paid, should also be recorded in the court docket. Those traffic citations that remain unpaid after the court date should be referred to the state as required, and recorded as such on the docket.

- **Voided and dismissed traffic citations not authorized by judge**

At least 37 traffic citations that appeared to have been dismissed or voided prior to court had no documentation that the judge had either authorized or subsequently endorsed the action. Town officials should ensure that any issued traffic citation that is voided or dismissed includes

documentation that the disposition is appropriate. All issued citations that are canceled should be approved by the municipal judge.

- **Traffic citations were not filed systematically or accounted for**

Town officials failed to file systematically or account for all issued traffic citations. Officials should maintain a numeric file of all issued traffic citations. Any missing citations should be investigated. The court copies of issued traffic citations should be filed in court date order to ensure that those offenders who fail to pay are properly identified for referral to the state.

Town officials indicated they have corrected or intend to correct these deficiencies.