



LAWRENCEBURG POLICE DEPARTMENT

Comptroller's Investigative Report
February 1, 2019

Justin P. Wilson, Comptroller





JUSTIN P. WILSON
Comptroller

JASON E. MUMPOWER
Chief of Staff

February 1, 2019

Mayor Blake Lay and
Lawrenceburg City Council
25 Public Square
Lawrenceburg, TN 38464

Ladies and Gentlemen:

The Office of the Comptroller of the Treasury conducted an investigation of selected records of the Lawrenceburg Police Department, and the results are presented herein.

Copies of this report are being forwarded to Governor Bill Lee, the State Attorney General, the District Attorney Generals of the 17th and 22nd Judicial Districts, 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/MLC

INVESTIGATIVE REPORT

LAWRENCEBURG POLICE DEPARTMENT

On May 4, 2018, the Comptroller's Division of Investigations received allegations of the theft of time and misuse of government equipment regarding an officer employed by the Lawrenceburg Police Department. As a result of these allegations, we performed an investigation. Findings, as a result of our investigation, are presented below. These findings have been reviewed with management and the District Attorney General for the 22nd Judicial District and with the District Attorney General for the 17th Judicial District Pro Tem.

BACKGROUND



The City of Lawrenceburg is the county seat for Lawrence County, Tennessee. The City of Lawrenceburg operates a police department whose members are “dedicated to serving the community by providing protection of life and property, as well as promoting safety.” The Police Department follows the leadership of its Police Chief while employing officers to fulfill roles in records, patrol, criminal investigations, domestic violence, child abuse, narcotics and vice.

Captain Patrick Daniels was employed as an officer with the Lawrenceburg Police Department for over 22 years. However, after the Police Department discovered that Daniels was using his department issued cellular telephone to gamble, the City considered his years of service and lack of disciplinary history and allowed his last day of work to be November 27, 2017. Daniels remained on the payroll by using his accumulated leave until December 4, 2017. Daniels was hired by former Sheriff Jimmy Brown at the Lawrence County Sheriff's Department on December 1, 2017. Daniels worked in Patrol as a Corporal until he resigned on August 16, 2018, to work elsewhere.

INVESTIGATIVE RESULTS

FINDING 1: Daniels used his city provided cellular telephone to gamble

Our investigators reviewed the cellular telephone logs of Daniels from October 2016 through November 2017. Our investigation revealed Daniels regularly used his city provided cellular telephone to place bets on sporting events with a booking agent while both on and off duty. The City of Lawrenceburg provides cellular telephones to its officers to improve operating efficiency and provide a better level of service to the citizens of Lawrenceburg. The City of Lawrenceburg's Personnel Rules and Regulations Manual permits an assigned user to operate a city provided cellular telephone within the confines of its policy; however, gambling is expressly prohibited while on duty or while wearing a city uniform.

FINDING 2: Daniels abused work time by gambling while on duty

We reviewed the cellular telephone logs and time sheets for Daniels. Our investigation revealed Daniels used his city owned telephone while on duty to text gambling bets to a booking agent. We were unable to determine the exact amount of time Daniels spent gambling while on the clock since we could not determine the length of time it took Daniels to research information for his bet and complete a text message and/or reply.

Patrick Daniels was charged with a Class C Misdemeanor for gambling and as a result on November 9, 2018 surrendered his Peace Officer Standards and Training certification, which had enabled him to be a law enforcement officer in the State of Tennessee.

[Lawrenceburg Police Department Investigation Exhibit](#)