



Linda L. Fraley

Clermont County Auditor

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Board of County Commissioners
101 East Main Street
Batavia, Ohio 45103

In light of recent events related to the termination and prosecution of a water resources employee, I would like to set the record straight as to what happened and how the fraud was detected.

First, I would like to thank and commend my staff and those collaborating departments and agencies of the sheriff, prosecutor, commissioners, and water resources for their efforts and action to detect and resolve this issue.

Our offices were able to work together with the vendors to expose and ultimately resolve this issue based upon the internal controls in place. Controls are in place to utilize efficient procurement practices and safeguard taxpayer dollars. No controls are guaranteed to stop fraud; a criminal with purpose can circumvent any system. But the cooperative efforts of county agencies allowed for the detection and rectification of the issue.

The issue was exposed and dealt with in the appropriate manner that lead to the indictment of the individual. The state auditor's office was informed and steps were taken to ensure the County would receive restitution.

Some people would like to think that this is a black eye on our operations, and that we were not transparent with information. Quite the contrary. The system worked.

As you well know, you don't divulge information until such time that it does not adversely affect an investigation. My staff and other county employees did their jobs detecting these issues. The controls worked, and as a result the crime was discovered.

Most County departments and agencies use procurement cards in place of credit cards. Our office has previously recommended all County departments and agencies utilize this control as an efficient alternative to Credit cards. Procurement cards are different then credit cards due to controls set up to limit what type of transaction, the amount of the transaction and the number of transactions. My office will continue to promote the use of procurement cards and continue to review and monitor controls.

Again I would like to thank those departments and agencies that worked with my office in this process. Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to address you today.

Thank you.

Linda L. Fraley
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