

NEW ORLEANS POLICE DEPARTMENT INCIDENT A-34733-12

Signal	Incident	Occurrence Date/Time	Reported Date/Time	Status	Bulletin
67E	EMBEZZLEMENT	1/25/2012 12:52 PM	1/25/2012 3:18 PM	OPEN	NO
Location				Dist/Zone/Sub	Lighting
5624 FRERET ST				2N01	GOOD

VICTIM PERSONS

#1 VICTIM

Last Name	First Name	Race	Sex	DOB
LUSHER CHARTER HIGH SCHOOL				
Home Address	Home Phone	SSN	Driver's License	
	() 504304			
Work Address	Work Phone	Occupation		
Sobriety	Injury	Treated	Victim Type	Email Address
			BUSINESS	

#2 INTERVIEW

Last Name	First Name	Race	Sex	DOB
RIEDLINGER	KATHLEEN	WHITE	FEMALE	1950
Home Address	Home Phone	SSN	Driver's License	
Work Address	Work Phone	Occupation		
5624 FRERET ST, NEW ORLEANS, LA 70115		CEO		
Sobriety	Injury	Treated	Victim Type	Email Address
SOBER	NONE		ORLEANS RESIDENT	

#3 INTERVIEW

Last Name	First Name	Race	Sex	DOB
ATES	WILEY	WHITE	MALE	1948
Home Address	Home Phone	SSN	Driver's License	
Work Address	Work Phone	Occupation		
5624 FRERET ST, NEW ORLEANS, LA 70115		HIGH SCHOOL PRINCIPAL		
Sobriety	Injury	Treated	Victim Type	Email Address
SOBER	NONE		ORLEANS RESIDENT	

#4 INTERVIEW

Reporting Officer #1	Badge	Reporting Officer #2	Badge	Car Number	Platoon
POLITEWANA CONWAY	564		0	277	A
Detective/Assigned	Approving Supervisor	Badge	Crime Lab	Other	
SWALM, GUY UNIT 1221	SERGEANT ERNEST JOSEPH	431		DET. MIRILEY UNIT 4233	

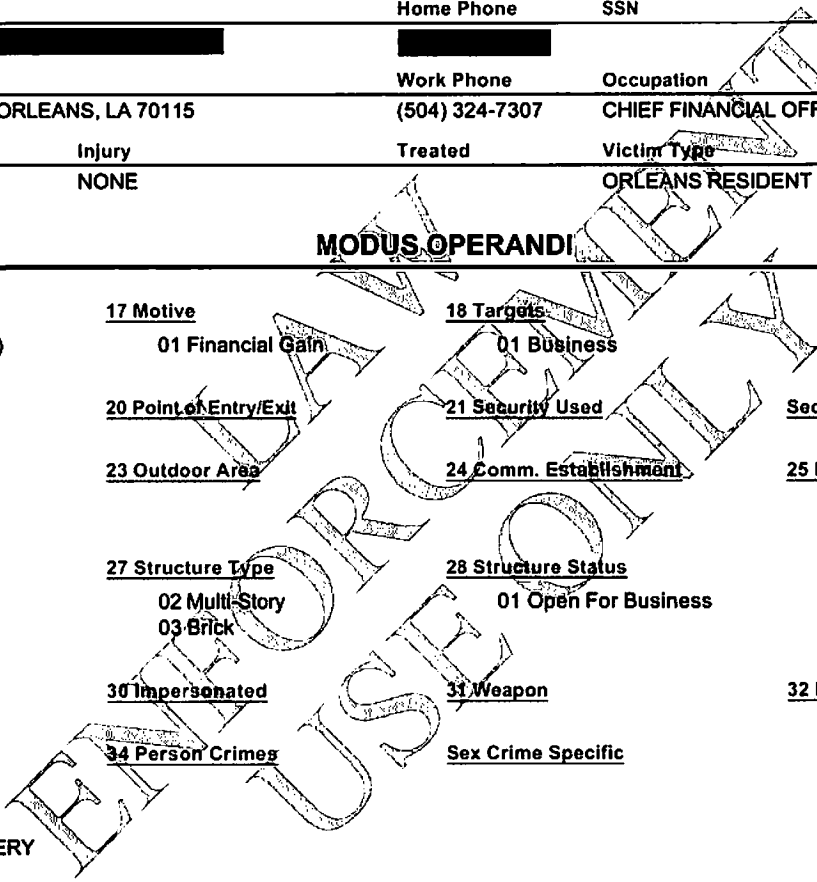
Last Name	First Name	Race	Sex	DOB
BOURNE	BRENDA	BLACK	FEMALE	1945
Home Address		Home Phone	SSN	Driver's Liconso
[REDACTED]		[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
Work Address		Work Phone	Occupation	
5624 FRERET ST, NEW ORLEANS, LA 70115			MIDDLE SCHOOL PRINCIPAL	
Sobriety	Injury	Treated	Victim Type	Email Address
SOBER	NONE		METRO RESIDENT	

5 INTERVIEW

Last Name	First Name	Race	Sex	DOB
SWAYZE	LYNDEN	WHITE	FEMALE	1955
Home Address		Home Phone	SSN	Driver's License
[REDACTED]		[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
Work Address		Work Phone	Occupation	
5624 FRERET ST, NEW ORLEANS, LA 70115		(504) 324-7307	CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER	
Sobriety	Injury	Treated	Victim Type	Email Address
SOBER	NONE		ORLEANS RESIDENT	

MODUS OPERANDI

16 Criminal Activity	17 Motive	18 Targets	
10 Other (Describe)	01 Financial Gain	01 Business	
19 Method of Entry	20 Point of Entry/Exit	21 Security Used	Security Defeated
22 Residential	23 Outdoor Area	24 Comm. Establishment	25 Public Access Area
			20 High School
26 Movable	27 Structure Type	28 Structure Status	
	02 Multi-Story 03 Brick	01 Open For Business	
29 Off. Approach	30 Impersonated	31 Weapon	32 Firearm Features
33 Property Crimes	34 Person Crimes	Sex Crime Specific	
Additional Descriptions			
16: RELATIVE TO FORGERY			



PROPERTY

Loss Type	Type	Qty	Narc Weight	Narc Type	Description	Brand	Serial No.	Value
STOLEN	OTHER PROPERTY	1			CHECK#25428 IN THE NAME OF LUSHER	WHITNEY NATIONAL BANK	711834911	\$5,000
STOLEN	OTHER PROPERTY	1			CHECK#24578 IN THE NAME OF LUSHER	WHITNEY NATIONAL BANK	711834911	\$5,000
STOLEN	OTHER PROPERTY	1			CHECK#24556 IN THE NAME OF LUSHER SCHOOL	WHITNEY NATIONAL BANK	711834911	\$800
STOLEN	OTHER PROPERTY	1			CHECK#24628 IN THE NAME OF LUSHER HIGH SCHOOL	WHITNEY NATIONAL BANK	711834911	\$5,000
STOLEN	OTHER PROPERTY	1			CHECK#24973 IN THE NAME OF LUSHER HIGH SCHOOL	WHITNEY NATIONAL BANK	711834911	\$5,000
STOLEN	OTHER PROPERTY	1			CHECK#25048 IN THE NAME OF LUSHER HIGH SCHOOL	WHITNEY NATIONAL BANK	711834911	\$5,000
STOLEN	OTHER PROPERTY	5			CHECKS IN THE NAME OF LUSHER SCHOOL	WHITNEY NATIONAL BANK	711834911	

EVIDENCE

Loss Type	Type	Qty	Narc Weight	Narc Type	Description	Brand	Serial No.	Value
CONFISCATED / SEIZED	OTHER PROPERTY	6			COPIES OF CASHED CHECKS			\$25,800
CONFISCATED / SEIZED	OTHER PROPERTY	4			COPIES OF RECIEPTS			

ENFORCED
USE ONLY

NARRATIVE

ON WEDNESDAY 01/25/2012 AT ABOUT 12:52 PM, OFFICER TIWANA CONWAY UNIT 277 A OF THE SECOND DISTRICT HAD THE OCCASION TO INVESTIGATE A SIGNAL 67E THEFT BY EMBEZZLEMENT AT 5624 FRERET ST (LUSHER CHARTER SCHOOL).

UPON ARRIVAL TO THE ABOVE MENTIONED LOCATION OFFICER CONWAY MET WITH THE REPORTING PERSON LYNDEN SWAYZE WHO IS THE CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER FOR LUSHER SCHOOL. MRS. SWAYZE STATED SOMETIME IN DECEMBER 2011, SHE PREPARED TO WRITE SOME CHECKS AND NOTICED THAT THE CHECK NUMBERS WERE OUT OF ORDER. MRS. SWAYZE NOTICED SOME CHECKS MISSING FROM THE LARGE STOCK OF CHECKS THAT ARE KEPT INSIDE OF A FILE CABINET INSIDE OF THE BUSINESS OFFICE.

THE BUSINESS OFFICES ARE LOCATED ON THE SECOND FLOOR OF THE SCHOOL ROOM NUMBERS 203 AND 201B. MRS. SWAYZE STATED ABOUT SIX PEOPLE HAVE ACCESS TO THE BUSINESS OFFICES. MRS. SWAYZE STATED SHE USUALLY KEEPS THE LARGER BOX OF CHECKS INSIDE OF A LOCKED FILE CABINET IN THE BUSINESS OFFICE. MRS. SWAYZE STATED THE DOORS TO THE BUSINESS OFFICE ARE USUALLY LOCKED WHEN THE ROOMS ARE UNOCCUPIED BY THE FINANCE STAFF.

MRS. SWAYZE STATED SHE DECIDED TO CONDUCT AN INVESTIGATION TO LOOK FOR THE MISSING CHECKS WITHOUT INFORMING HER OFFICE STAFF. MRS. SWAYZE STATED SHE DECIDED TO LET THE REST OF THE FINANCE STAFF KNOW ABOUT THE INVESTIGATION ON TUESDAY 01/24/12. MRS. SWAYZE STATED ABOUT AN HOUR LATER SHE WAS APPROACHED BY AN EMPLOYEE NAMED LAUREN HIGHTOWER WHO ASKED IF SHE COULD SPEAK TO HER REGARDING THE MISSING CHECKS.

MRS. SWAYZE STATED MS. HIGHTOWER TOLD HER THAT SHE HAD TAKEN 11 CHECKS FROM THE BOX OF CHECKS AND CASHED ONE CHECK IN THE AMOUNT OF \$5000.00. MRS. SWAYZE STATED MS. HIGHTOWER THEN STATED TO HER THAT SHE REPLACED THE MONEY AND SHREDDED THE OTHER 10 CHECKS THAT WERE LEFT. MRS. SWAYZE STATED SHE IMMEDIATELY NOTIFIED THE CEO OF THE SCHOOL MRS. KATHLEEN RIEDLINGER REGARDING THE INCIDENT.

AFTER NOTIFYING MRS. RIEDLINGER, MS. HIGHTOWER WAS ASKED TO SURRENDER HER KEYS TO THE OFFICE AND LEAVE THE CAMPUS. MRS. SWAYZE STATED SHE CONTINUED TO LOOK FOR EVIDENCE REGARDING THE INCIDENT. MRS. SWAYZE NOTIFIED WHITNEY NATIONAL BANK REGARDING THE INCIDENT BECAUSE ALL THE BANK STATEMENTS THAT CONTAINED THE IMAGES COPIES OF WRITTEN CHECKS HAD BEEN SHREDDED BY HIGHTOWER. MRS. SWAYZE STATED SHE REQUESTED THE CHECK IMAGES OF WRITTEN CHECKS FROM THE BANK.

MRS. SWAYZE STATED AFTER HER REQUEST FOR INFORMATION FROM THE BANK, SHE WAS ABLE TO NARROW DOWN FIVE TRANSACTIONS OF CHECKS WRITTEN PAYABLE TO LAUREN HIGHTOWER IN THE AMOUNT OF \$5000.00 EACH. THERE WAS ONE CHECK IN THE AMOUNT OF \$800.00 PAYABLE TO CASH THAT WAS DEPOSIT ONLY.

MRS. SWAYZE ADVISED THE CHECKS IMAGES ALSO SHOWED FORGED SIGNATURES IN THE NAME OF KATHLEEN RIEDLINGER, BRENDA BOURNE THE MIDDLE SCHOOL PRINCIPAL, WILEY ATE'S HIGH SCHOOL PRINCIPAL AND HER NAME ALSO. MRS. SWAYZE ADVISED THE ABOVE NAMED PEOPLE ARE THE ONLY PEOPLE AUTHORIZED TO SIGN CHECKS ISSUED BY THE SCHOOL.

MRS. SWAYZE STATED SHE WAS NOT SURE IF HIGHTOWER ACTUALLY SHREDDED THE CHECKS SHE HAD STOLEN. MRS. SWAYZE STATED THE CHECKS ARE CURRENTLY STILL MISSING. LAUREN HIGHTOWER WAS IDENTIFIED AS A WHITE FEMALE D.O.B. 05/01/1982, S.S.# [REDACTED] SHE IS ABOUT 5'5" TALL WEIGHING ABOUT 220 LBS, AND HAS BLUE EYES.

AFTER SPEAKING WITH MRS. SWAYZE OFFICER CONWAY MET WITH KATHLEEN RIEDLINGER AT ABOUT 3:00 PM, AND SHE ADVISED OFFICER CONWAY THAT SHE DID NOT AUTHORIZE LAUREN HIGHTOWER TO WRITE ANY CHECKS PAYABLE TO HERSELF. MRS. RIEDLINGER ALSO STATED THAT SHE DID NOT SIGN ANY OF THE CHECKS MADE PAYABLE TO HIGHTOWER.

ON WEDNESDAY 01/25/11 AT ABOUT 3:10 PM, OFFICER CONWAY SPOKE WITH BOTH BRENDA BOURNE AND WILEY ATE'S VIA TELEPHONE AND BOTH MR. ATE'S AND MS. BOURNE ADVISED OFFICER CONWAY THAT THEY DID NOT AUTHORIZE LAUREN HIGHTOWER TO WRITE OR SIGN THEIR SIGNATURE ON ANY OF THE CHECKS MADE OUT PAYABLE TO LAUREN HIGHTOWER.

OFFICER CONWAY CONFISCATED THE COPIES FROM MRS. SWAYZE AND RELOCATED TO CENTRAL EVIDENCE AND PROPERTY WHERE THE DOCUMENTS WERE PLACED ON THE BOOKS AS EVIDENCE UNDER RECEIPT NUMBER A3473312. OFFICER CONWAY ALSO OBTAINED A SIGNED THEFT AFFIDAVIT FOR THIS INCIDENT.

OFFICER CONWAY NOTIFIED SGT. ERNIE JOSEPH UNIT 280 A OF THIS INCIDENT. OFFICER CONWAY ALSO NOTIFIED SECOND DISTRICT DETECTIVE GUY SWALM UNIT 1221. OFFICER CONWAY NOTIFIED WHITE COLLAR CRIMES DETECTIVE M. RILEY UNIT 4233 OF THIS INCIDENT.

AFTER SPEAKING WITH SGT. JOSEPH AND DETECTIVE RILEY OFFICER CONWAY WAS ADVISED BY DETECTIVE RILEY THAT HE WOULD OBTAIN AN ARREST WARRANT ON LAUREN HIGHTOWER DUE TO THE FACT THAT THE SCHOOL WAS STILL GATHERING MORE INFORMATION FROM THE BANK REGARDING THE STOLEN CHECKS. OFFICER CONWAY ISSUED MRS. SWAYZE AN N.O.P.D. ITEM NUMBER FOR THIS INCIDENT.

ANY ADDITIONAL INFORMATION WILL BE SUBMITTED VIA SUPPLEMENTAL REPORT.

LAW FIRM
ENHOPROCHMENT
USE ONLY

ATTACHED DOCUMENTS LIST

Document 1 - CE & P Receipt - #A3473312

Document 2 - Theft Affidavit

LAW FIRM
FOR PROCEMENT
USE ONLY