



AUDITOR-CONTROLLER'S OFFICE

Employee Fraud Hotline Report

For the Period July through December 2014 Update #27

I am pleased to present the Semiannual Report of the Employee Fraud Hotline for the period July through December 2014. The Employee Fraud Hotline was established as an avenue to report fraud, waste, and abuse occurring at the County of Ventura. I encourage employees to resolve concerns through their normal administrative channels whenever possible. However, the Employee Fraud Hotline provides an alternative reporting mechanism to ensure that concerns about possible wrongdoing in our County government are properly addressed. This report reflects information provided to the Board of Supervisors on January 27, 2015.

Jeffery S. Burgh Auditor-Controller

THREE WAYS TO CONTACT THE HOTLINE

Call:

(805) 644-6019

Write:

Employee Fraud Hotline
Ventura County Auditor-Controller
Administration Building L#1540
800 South Victoria Avenue
Ventura, CA 93009

E-Mail *:

Fraud.Hotline@ventura.org

* E-mail is not confidential



HOTLINE ACTIVITY AT A GLANCE . . . During July through December 2014, the Employee Fraud Hotline received 50 new complaints of improper activity, of which we pursued 26 (52%). Twenty-three (23) of the new issues were not pursued because the complainants were redirected to other hotlines or other appropriate agencies, and one issue was not pursued due to insufficient information.

As of December 31, 2014, most of the 50 new issues have been resolved/closed:



During July through December 2014, we resolved/closed a total of 56 Hotline issues out of the 66 total complaints that were under review/open (50 new complaints and 16 complaints from prior periods):

Summary Outcomes of 56 Hotline Issues Resolved/Closed during July-December 2014

Table with 2 columns: Outcome and Count. Includes Substantiated (5), Unsubstantiated (20), Redirected to Other Hotlines/Agencies (23), and Insufficient Information (8).

Most of the new complaints were made by telephone:

Contact Method

Table with 2 columns: Contact Method and Percentage. Includes Telephone (72%), E-Mail (16%), Fax or Mail (10%), and In Person (2%).

DESCRIPTION OF SUBSTANTIATED COMPLAINTS

- 1. Misuse of County Vehicle. An employee took a County vehicle home without prior supervisory approval.
2. Misuse of County Telephone. An employee inappropriately used a County telephone to make personal phone calls on County time.
3. Time Abuse. An employee consistently took extended breaks and lunches, and arrived late to work.
4. Housing Assistance Fraud. An otherwise eligible client used an alias in obtaining \$3,400 in housing assistance and falsely identified a friend as the client's landlord to whom rent checks were issued.
5. Nonperformance of Job Duties. A manager did not always ensure that quarterly safety meetings were conducted and that semiannual safety visits were performed.