



COUNTY OF VENTURA

AUDITOR-CONTROLLER

Employee Fraud Hotline Report *Update #15* For the Period July through December 2008

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.

I am pleased to present the Semi-Annual Report of the Employee Fraud Hotline for the period July through December 2008. 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 February 3, 2009.

*Christine L. Cohen
Auditor-Controller*

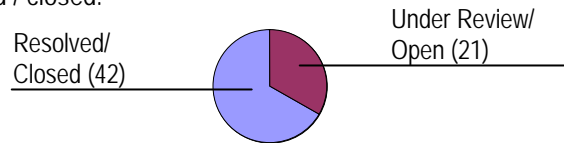
Hotline Activity at a Glance . . . During July through December 2008, the Employee Fraud Hotline received 63 new complaints of improper activity, of which we pursued 45 (71%). Sixteen issues were not pursued because the complainants were redirected to other hotlines and two issues were retracted by the complainant(s).

The 45 new complaints that we pursued involved the following types of issues:

Types and Number of New Hotline Issues Pursued

Unprofessional Behavior/Hostile Work Environment.....	5
Abuse/Misuse of Vehicles/Resources.....	4
Unfair Treatment of County Clients/Residents.....	3
Improper Reporting/Filing Practices.....	3
Abuse/Misuse of County Time.....	3
Improper Hiring Practices/Job Assignments.....	3
Falsified Job Applications.....	2
Unethical Conduct/Abuse of Position.....	2
Employee Favoritism/Discrimination.....	2
Conflict of Interest.....	2
Undue Influence.....	2
Improper Settlement Actions.....	2
Inappropriate Billing Practices.....	2
Inappropriate Purchasing/Bid Practices.....	2
Unreasonable Process Delays.....	2
Theft.....	1
Improper Asset Disposal.....	1
Wasteful Spending.....	1
Improper Public Assistance Certification.....	1
Welfare/Public Assistance Fraud.....	1
Consumer Fraud.....	1

As of December 31, 2008, most of the 63 new issues have been resolved / closed:



For most of the 63 new complaints, the complainants chose to remain anonymous:

Anonymous.....	75%
Not Anonymous.....	25%

During July through December 2008, we resolved/closed a total of 53 Hotline issues out of the 76 total complaints that were under review/open (63 new complaints and 13 complaints from prior periods):

**Summary Outcomes of 53 Hotline Issues
Resolved/Closed during July-December 2008**

Substantiated (see description below)	2
Unsubstantiated	33
Redirected to other hotlines	16
Retracted.....	2

DESCRIPTION OF SUBSTANTIATED COMPLAINTS

- 1. Time Cards.** A County program did not always file payroll time cards in a timely manner, resulting in late time adjustments for some employees. Corrective action was implemented to transition the program employees from a manual time reporting system to the Ventura County Human Resources/Payroll System and to provide for a back up payroll administrator.
- 2. Misuse of Employee Time and Liability Risk.** A County program planned an event where food would be served to clients during County time. The department canceled the event and reminded staff of applicable County policies and practices.