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**Mono County Grand Jury 2013  
Final Report Regarding:  
Misappropriation of Mono County Health Department Facilities and  
Misuse of a Public Vehicle  
Case #1213.03**

**Summary:**

The Grand Jury received a complaint that an individual who had been an employee of the Mono County Health Department had used Health Department facilities to print a color program for the athletic program of Coleville High School.

The same complaint alleged that the Bridgeport fire Chief had used a department vehicle inappropriately to travel to Reno on Personal business.

After investigation, the Jury finds that both complaints were legitimate, approved uses of County and Fire District resources and recommends no changes to policies or procedures.

**The Complaint:**

The Grand Jury received a citizen complaint alleging the following:

1. Misuse of Health Dept. facilities:  
The complaint alleges that an individual employee of the County Health Department used Department facilities to print full color programs for Coleville High School.
2. Misuse of a public vehicle:  
The complaint alleges inappropriate use of a Bridgeport Fire Department vehicle for travel to Reno.

**The Method:**

The investigative committee identified five steps necessary to investigate the allegations of this complaint.

1. Interview the Health Department director to determine whether Department facilities had been used inappropriately.
2. Interview the individual accused of inappropriate use of Health Department facilities to determine if the athletic programs had been printed and to inquire regarding the circumstances of such printing.
3. Interview the Director of the Tobacco Cessation Program to determine whether that Program had financed such printing.
4. Interview the individual, the wife of the Bridgeport Fire Chief who had accompanied the fire Chief on the trip to Reno to determine whether such a trip had occurred.
5. Obtain a copy of the official policy of vehicle use of the Bridgeport Fire Department.

## **The Investigation:**

### First Issue:

The subcommittee interviewed the Health Department Director, the staff member involved and the director of the Tobacco Avoidance Program.

The Health Department Director was not in charge at the time and was not aware of the use of Department facilities for this purpose.

The staff member involved stated that she had done the printing as described in the complaint and that the expense had been paid by the Tobacco Avoidance Program.

The director of the smoking cessation program confirmed that the printing of the sports program had been paid for from a smoking cessation grant and provided written verification including verification of the policy.

### Second Issue:

The subcommittee interviewed the individual involved by phone teleconference on January 3, 2013 and reviewed the written vehicle policies of the Bridgeport Fire District.

## **Findings and Recommendations**

The Grand Jury makes the following findings and recommendations as a result of this investigation:

1. Finding: Health Department facilities were used to print programs for a high school athletic program. This use of Health Department facilities was an approved expense of the Tobacco Avoidance Program. This use was approved by the Director of the Tobacco Avoidance Program. All benefits of these actions accrued to the benefit of other public agencies: the Tobacco Avoidance Program which paid the cost and the high school sports program, and not to any individual.
  - **Recommendation: no change in policies or regulations.**
2. Finding: The use of the vehicle in question was consistent with the vehicle policies of the Bridgeport Fire District.
  - **Recommendations: no change in policies or regulations.**