



WILLIAMSON COUNTY PARKS AND RECREATION

Comptroller's Investigative Report
August 28, 2018

Justin P. Wilson, Comptroller





JUSTIN P. WILSON
Comptroller

JASON E. MUMPOWER
Chief of Staff

August 28, 2018

Gordon Hampton, Director
Williamson County Parks and Recreation
1120 Hillsboro Road
Franklin, TN 37064

Dear Mr. Hampton:

The Office of the Comptroller of the Treasury conducted an investigation of selected records of the Williamson County Parks and Recreation, and the results are presented herein.

Copies of this report are being forwarded to Governor Bill Haslam, the State Attorney General, the District Attorney General, certain state legislators, and various other interested parties. A copy is available for public inspection in our office and may be viewed at <http://www.comptroller.tn.gov/ia/>.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Justin P. Wilson", is written over a light gray rectangular background.

Justin P. Wilson
Comptroller of the Treasury

JPW/RAD

INVESTIGATIVE REPORT

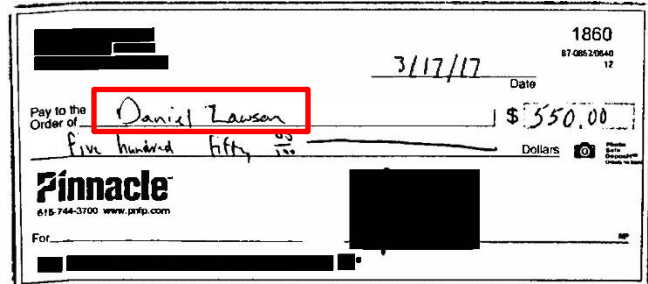
WILLIAMSON COUNTY PARKS AND RECREATION

The Office of the Comptroller of the Treasury investigated allegations of malfeasance related to Williamson County Parks and Recreation (WCPR). The Comptroller’s Office initiated an investigation after WCPR officials discovered a discrepancy and reported possible missing funds related to WCPR’s Adult Softball League program.

INVESTIGATIVE RESULTS

- **Former assistant adult sports coordinator Daniel Lawson misappropriated Williamson County Parks and Recreation funds totaling at least \$7,615**

During the period January 2015 through August 2017, Daniel Lawson, an assistant adult sports coordinator, misappropriated WCPR funds totaling at least \$7,615 designated for the adult softball league program. Mr. Lawson perpetrated his scheme by failing to turn over for deposit some funds he collected from patrons as payment for league registration fees and out-of-county fees. In several instances, Mr. Lawson met patrons at an offsite location and collected cash, or checks naming him as the payee. **[Refer to Exhibit.]** Mr. Lawson did not remit these funds for deposit into a WCPR bank account. Instead, he retained the cash and the proceeds of the checks for his personal benefit. Mr. Lawson altered WCPR computer records, effectively concealing his actions.



Check payable to Daniel Lawson collected from patron. Proceeds not remitted to WCPR.

In August 2017, after WCPR officials confronted Mr. Lawson with the apparent shortage, he admitted to taking funds without permission. Mr. Lawson subsequently told Comptroller investigators that, without the knowledge or consent of WCPR officials, he retained and used the funds to pay for personal expenses. WCPR officials terminated Mr. Lawson’s employment on August 22, 2017.

Summary of Misappropriation by Assistant Adult Sports Coordinator Daniel Lawson

Source of Misappropriated Funds	Amount
League Registration Fees	\$7,315
Out-of-County Fees	300
Total	<u>\$7,615</u>

We referred these matters to the local district attorney general. In August 2018, the Williamson County Grand Jury indicted Daniel Lawson on one count of Theft over \$2,500 but under \$10,000 and one count of Official Misconduct.

ADDITIONAL ISSUES

Our investigation revealed deficiencies in financial processes that contributed to Mr. Lawson's ability to perpetrate his misappropriation without prompt detection. These financial process deficiencies included:

- ▶ WCPR officials failed to properly separate duties. Mr. Lawson was able to collect fee payments and alter the computer records to adjust the fee amounts owed.
- ▶ WCPR officials failed to ensure adequate documentation of collections. Some employees did not issue prenumbered receipts to patrons who paid out-of-county fees.
- ▶ WCPR officials failed to ensure that amounts of out-of-county fees due to WCPR were documented, collected, and deposited into a WCPR bank account. Management did not ensure that completed and signed team rosters that documented liability waivers and out-of-county fees owed by each team were retained.
- ▶ WCPR officials failed to require that employees obtain supervisory approval and prepare adequate explanatory documentation prior to adjusting specified league fee amounts and due dates.

Williamson County Parks and Recreation officials indicated that they have corrected these deficiencies.