



COMPTROLLER'S INVESTIGATIVE REPORT

Maury Regional Medical Center

October 19, 2020

Justin P. Wilson
Comptroller of the Treasury



DIVISION OF INVESTIGATIONS



JUSTIN P. WILSON
Comptroller

JASON E. MUMPOWER
Deputy Comptroller

October 19, 2020

H. Alan Watson, CEO
Maury Regional Medical Center
2024 Trotwood Avenue
Columbia, Tn 38401

Mr. Watson:

The Office of the Comptroller of the Treasury conducted an investigation of selected records of the Maury Regional Medical Center, and the results are presented herein.

Copies of this report are being forwarded to Governor Bill Lee, the State Attorney General, the District Attorney General of the 22nd Judicial District, certain state legislators, and various other interested parties. A copy of the report 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 that reads "Justin P. Wilson".

Justin P. Wilson
Comptroller of the Treasury

JPW/MLC

INVESTIGATIVE REPORT

Maury Regional Medical Center

The Office of the Comptroller of the Treasury investigated allegations of malfeasance related to Maury Regional Medical Center (MRMC). The Comptroller's Office initiated the investigation at the request of the District Attorney General of the 22nd Judicial District. The investigation was limited to selected records for the period April 4, 2017 through September 1, 2019. The results of the investigation were communicated with the Office of the District Attorney General of the 22nd Judicial District.

BACKGROUND

Maury Regional Medical Center (MRMC) is the flagship hospital for Maury Regional Health and is the largest hospital between Nashville and Huntsville. MRMC is a 255-bed facility with a medical staff of more than 200 physicians and 2,000 employees who serve a region consisting of more than a quarter-million people in southern Middle Tennessee.



In October 2019, MRMC officials contacted the District Attorney General after they found evidence of suspected theft committed by Tommy John Riker, a system coordinator in the hospital's Supply Chain Department.

MRMC employed Riker from May 2016 until his termination on November 20, 2019. He was responsible for managing items in the hospital's inventory system and for backup purchasing functions. Riker was not responsible for filling or delivering internal supply orders to hospital departments.

RESULTS OF INVESTIGATION

- **FORMER SYSTEM COORDINATOR TOMMY JOHN RIKER MISAPPROPRIATED AT LEAST \$798,265 FROM MAURY REGIONAL MEDICAL CENTER**

During the period April 4, 2017, through September 1, 2019, System Coordinator Tommy Riker engaged in a scheme to wrongfully obtain at least \$798,265 by taking medical supplies from MRMC, selling them online, and keeping the cash for his personal benefit. Riker was responsible for purchasing and managing items in the hospital's inventory control system. Riker's position and related duties allowed him access to and some control over the hospital's physical inventory and its inventory control system.

Although his job responsibilities did not include filling supply orders requested by hospital staff, Riker manipulated the hospital's inventory control system to reflect that supply orders had been filled and dispensed to staff. MRMC officials discovered that Riker used computers and handheld scanners to create the illusion that the items he took had been dispensed to various hospital departments even though they were not requisitioned. Once the inventory records showed the items as having been dispensed, Riker physically removed the items from inventory, sold them, and kept the cash for his personal benefit. Riker typically took the items that he removed from inventory in small quantities. He would then utilize his purchasing duties and use the inventory system to replenish the hospital's inventory levels.

On three separate occasions, beginning in 2018, an employee reported to hospital officials that too many units of an item were being charged to their department. Hospital officials initially believed that these discrepancies may have been similar in nature to the inventory problems they had experienced with their prior inventory control system which was replaced in late 2016. According to a hospital official, the previous inventory control system caused multiple problems regarding the number of inventory items. As a result, officials failed to investigate these issues until they received a third report in July 2019. That investigation led to the discovery of Riker's theft scheme. Their failure to act after receiving the initial report allowed Riker's theft scheme to continue and remain undetected for several more months.

MRMC officials determined that Riker would arrive at the hospital prior to his normally scheduled shift and prior to the arrival of others within his department. The officials further determined that Riker would physically remove items from the hospital's supply area, package the supplies in his office, and then remove the supplies from the hospital. The officials were able to determine this information primarily by reviewing access badge scans, computer login information, and video evidence. Riker's early arrival at the facility enabled him to remove these items from MRMC's inventory system and physically from the hospital building without detection.

Exhibit 1

Calculation of Riker's Theft from MRMC

Item	Total Cost to MRMC
9079 Needles	\$ 162,144.20
9001 Needles	185,405.40
9018 Needles	147,528.00
Promogran PG004 Wound Dressing	31,136.00
InterDry Ag Textile	40,189.20
Surgicel 1953 Hemostat	213,262.08
Mepilex Border Sacrum Foam Dressing	2,590.50
Mepilex Border 3x3 Foam Dressing	591.00
Mepilex Border 6x6 Foam Dressing	684.00
Mepilex Border Heel Foam Dressing	754.50
Promogran MA123 Wound Dressing	9,172.80
Aquacel 3.5x10 Ag Surgical Dressing	3,687.20
Aquacel 3.5x14 Ag Surgical Dressing	1,120.50
TOTAL	\$ 798,265.38

On March 11, 2020, the Maury County Grand Jury indicted Tommy John Riker on one count of Theft over \$250,000 and on 54 counts of Money Laundering.

[Maury Regional Medical Center Investigative Exhibit](#)

As stated previously, Riker was terminated from MRMC on November 20, 2019.