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New fraud policy adopted

Fraud is a serious violation of the law that will not be tolerated in the Department. Generally, the Department defines fraud as theft of--or any means used to misappropriate--state property or resources.

"We want our employees who suspect that workplace fraud is occurring to *immediately* notify their supervisors," said DPS Director Col. **Thomas Davis Jr.** "All allegations of fraud should be thoroughly investigated."

If for some reason the employee is uncomfortable with notifying their supervisor, they may notify Internal Affairs or the State Auditor's Office.

Administrative investigations into fraud allegations will be conducted in accordance with Chapter 7A of the General Manual. Criminal investigations will be conducted by a division or service assigned by the Director's office. Both administrative and criminal investigators must notify Internal Affairs of the initiation of the investigation and the end results.

The fraud policy will be outlined in Chapter 5.49 of the General Manual. Fraud offenses are listed in Chapter 32 of the Texas Penal Code.

The Department maintains a zero-tolerance position on employee fraud and assures each employee who reports wrongdoing that they will be free from retaliation.

Promotional exams coming

The competitive examination for the following positions will be conducted at the DPS Academy in Austin at 8 a.m.:

Wed. March 9- Lt. CVE;

Tues. March 15- Capt. DLD, Capt. Special Crimes;

Tues. March 22- Capt. HP, Capt. CVE;

Tues. March 29- Lt. DLD.

Competitive examinations scheduled for Regional Headquarter offices (except Region VII held at the Robert E. Johnson Bldg., 1501 N. Congress, Austin and Region VIII held at the Hidalgo County Sheriff's Office, 715 East El Cibolo Road, Edinburg) are as follows:

Tues. April 12, 8 a.m.- Lt. Narcotics; Lt. HP; Sgt. HP; Sgt. DLD.

Tues. April 12, 1:30 p.m.- Lt. Special Crimes; Sgt. CVE; Sgt. Narcotics; Sgt. Special Crimes.

Announcements are posted in Outlook at Public Folders/All Public Folders/Law Enforcement Promotions. Call 512-424-2915 for more info.

Dear fellow employee:

At the left, you'll notice an article about the Department's fraud policy. Please be sure to read it and take it to heart. *Any employee who suspects that workplace fraud is occurring must immediately notify either their supervisor or Internal Affairs.* Please note that retaliation for reporting fraud will not be tolerated.

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At this point, we're about half-way through the legislative session. I know many of you have been working hard, responding to legislative requests or testifying before committees. Thanks for all your hard work; the agency appreciates it.

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March means Spring Break for the children in our families. Many of you will be traveling Texas--and other states' roadways--sometime in March. There will be many out-of-state visitors, as well, traveling to many Texas tourist destinations. Please be careful. Drive friendly!

Thomas A. Davis Jr.

Short Shots

HP Tr. **Ryan Koonce**'s keen instincts led to the seizure of \$2.3 million in cash in Nacogdoches County last month. It is the largest traffic stop cash seizure in more than a year and the fourth largest in DPS history.



Koonce pulled over an 18-wheeler for speeding on U.S. 59. Examination of the semi-trailer revealed bundles of cash in a false compartment inside the refrigerated box car. The truck was hauling boxes of frozen chicken.

A 34-year-old Mission man, who will be prosecuted federally, was arrested on money laundering charges.

DPS Narcotics and the DEA are continuing the investigation.

Dive Team tryouts

The DPS Dive Recovery Team is seeking applicants for try-outs. Any commissioned THP trooper who is stationed within 100 miles of Austin is eligible to apply. Dive certification is not a prerequisite, as successful candidates will receive the appropriate training and certification.

Those wishing to apply for consideration should submit a memorandum through their chain of command, forwarding the original directly to Maj. **David G. Baker** in the THP Chief's office. They must also notify

Maj. Baker of their intent to apply either in person or by calling 512-424-2115.

Governor Protective Detail

The THP Division is now accepting applications for sergeant positions on the Governor Protective Detail. All commissioned Department personnel not currently on disciplinary probation and with at least **24 calendar months** service as a commissioned Texas peace officer are eligible to apply. Applicants must contact Capt. **Dale L. Avant** at 512-475-4820 for instructions on the application process.

Mile Markers

Promotions

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Wilburn Gene Hawkins, Asst. Commander, Spec. Crimes Austin to Commander, Spec. Crimes Austin; **Paul Mike Simmons**, Captain, Spec. Crimes Garland to Asst. Commander, Spec. Crimes Austin; **Wilmon Conrad Smith**, Sgt., Narcotics Svc. Houston to Lt., Narcotics Svc. Lubbock

DLD

Kevin Scott Lewis, Sgt., DL Humble to Lt., DL McAllen; **Kenneth Jay Whitehead**, Tr. IV, DL Angleton to Sgt., DL Odessa.

Retirements

Garry Edward Pollard, Sr. Cpl., CVE Garland, 27 yrs., 6 mos., 23 days; **Eugene James Wilganowski, Jr.**, Sen. Tr., HP Texas City, 17 yrs., 5 mos., 24 days;

Joseph Max Glenn, III, Sr. Tr., DL Georgetown, 24 yrs., 5 mos., 19 days.

Deaths

E.K. Browning, ret. Major, Regional Commander Midland (Dec. 1935 – Jul. 1977) died Feb. 1, 2005; **Yolanda Hernandez**, Technical Supervisor, Breath Alcohol Testing Hurst (Oct. 1990 – Nov. 2003) died Jan. 26, 2005; **James Douglas Edins**, Examiner, DL Sweetwater (Nov. 1963 – Aug. 2004) died Jan. 31, 2005;

Mary F. Witherspoon, Stenographer III, Rangers Garland (Apr. 1970 – May 1987) died Feb. 5, 2005; **Fred (Curry) Johnson**, ret. HP Whitney (June 1972 – June 2001) died Jan. 13, 2005.



On the mend...

Best wishes for a speedy recovery from line-of-duty injuries go to:

Tr. **Darrell C. Matthews**, CVE Hereford, injured in traffic crash,

Tr. **Kirk W. Washington**, HP Killeen, injured pursuing suspect,

Tr. **James R. DeFrance**, HP Conroe, injured during struggle with suspect;

Tr. **Billy Horton**, HP Lubbock, injured during foot pursuit;

Tr. **David O'Neal**, HP Marshall, injured when his vehicle was broadsided; and

Tr. **Wilton White**, HP Hempstead, struck by a drunk driver while directing traffic.