



STATE OF ILLINOIS
CIRCUIT COURT

Fifth Judicial Circuit
January 22, 2008

Steven L. Garst
Circuit Judge

Edgar County Courthouse
Paris, Illinois 61944
(217) 466-7470

Mr. Matthew L. Sullivan
Edgar County State's Attorney
115 W. Court St.
Paris, IL 61944

Chief Ron Humphrey
Paris City Police
211 W. Washington St.
Paris, IL 61944

Sheriff Tim Crippes
Edgar County Sheriff's Department
228 N. Central Ave.
Paris, IL 61944

RE: Drug Traffic Prevention Fund

Gentlemen:

I have reviewed the report of the Fund from July 1 through December 31, 2007. After that review, I have a question regarding how property that it has seized is sold.

On October 30, Roger Hopper purchased a 1993 Chevrolet Geo Storm for \$205.00. This car was forfeited from Thomas Guess. There is no indication that this was a sale at public auction or that bids were sought. There was no expense for advertising. I would also note that \$204.00 was spent on repairing a door window in this vehicle and \$60.00 was spent on towing it.

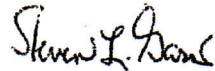
This leads to the appearance of an insider transaction when an asset is sold without advertising either an auction or the seeking of bids. Especially when it is sold to an officer and when it is sold for less than the costs paid from the fund to repair and tow the asset.

I suspect a 1993 automobile was not worth much more than it was sold for. But I think it would be wise to develop a protocol requiring all items seized to be advertised for sale at either a public auction or by sealed bid and always sold to the highest bidder. I believe this would avoid the appearance of an impropriety and is an absolute necessity if the item is to be sold to an employee of any of the involved agencies.

Mr. Sullivan
Chief Humphrey
Sheriff Crippes
Page | 2
January 23, 2008

I would be glad to discuss this further with the committee if you desire. I strongly urge you to develop a standard procedure for the sale of assets which requires advertising and sale to the highest bidder.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Steven L. Garst". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized "S" and "G".

Steven L. Garst,
Circuit Judge

SLG/mli

DRUG TRAFFIC PREVENTION FUND

Receipts & Disbursements

July 1, 2007 to December 31, 2007

07-01-07	Beginning balance	\$6,411.17	
07-10-07	Check #1690 Dick Henson Service and Wrecker for Lube/Filter for Task Force Coordinator Hopper's Vehicle		24.25
07-10-07	Check #1691 Sirchie Fingerprint Laboratories for Purchase of Evidence Integrity Bags		105.59
07-13-07	Check #1692 Illini FS For June 2007 Fuel Usage for Task Force Coordinator's Squad		310.41
07-13-07	Check #1693 Specialty Battery for Purchase of Battery Installed in Task Force Coordinator's ATV		29.95
07-13-07	Check #1694 Verizon Wireless for Cellular Phone Service for Task Force Coordinator's GPS 7/5 - 8/4		23.63
07-13-07	Check #1695 Verizon Wireless for Cellular Phone Service Used for Task Force Coordinator's Wireless Internet 7/5-84		60.81
07/26/07	Check #1696 Clear Talk Communications, Inc for purchase of batter and Antenna for Terry Rogers' portable radio		169.00
07/26/07	Check #1697 Counrtyside Chevrolet for Service on Transmission Of Task Force Coordinator's Squad Car		128.80
07/26/07	Check #1698 Ray O'Herron Co, Inc for purchase of Methamphetamine Test Kits		241.14
07/31/07	SPLIT DEPOSIT	\$681.25	
	INTEREST	\$ 5.00	
08/13/07	Check #1699 Edgar County Vet Service for Office visits for Deputy Burgin's K-9 "A.J."		67.50
08-13-07	Check #1700 Verizon Wireless for Cellular Phone Service for Task Force Coordinator's Wireless Internet 8/5 - 9/4		60.81
08-13-07	Check #1701 Verizon Wireless for Cellular Phone Service Used for Task Force Coordinator's GPS 8/5-9/4		23.63
08-13-07	Check #1702 Farm Plan for purchase of Frontline for City Police K-9		87.98
08-13-07	Check #1703 Edgar County Sheriff for Reimbursement for Work at Computer Wares on Coordinator's Computer		122.50
08-21-07	Check #1704 Illini FS For July 2007 Fuel Usage for Task Force Coordinator's Squad		311.58

09-28-07	SPLIT DEPOSIT INTEREST	1,504.50 4.22	
10-5-07	Check #1719 Lawman for Drug Education Awareness Material		90.00
10-5-07	Check #1720 Paris Beacon news for Ads Run for Advertising for bids to be taken on coins		151.20
10-5-07	Check #1721 Computer Wares for Following: Service done on Video Recording Machine, Service Done on Coordinator's Laptop; and 80 gb SATA Hard Drive		172.30
10-9-07	Check #1722 Edgar County Auto Glass for Repairing Door Window on 1993 Geo Storm, Vehicle Forfeited from Thomas Guess		204.01
10-16-07	Check #1723 Edgar County Sheriff's Department for Reimbursement to Petty Cash fund for money used for Drug Buy		40.00
10-16-07	Check #1724 Verizon Wireless for Cellular Phone Service for Task Force Coordinator's Wireless Internet 10/4-11/3		60.81
10-16-07	Check #1725 Verizon Wireless for Cellular Phone Service Used for Task Force Coordinator's GPS 10/4-11/3		23.63
10-29-07	Check #1726 Farm Plan for Purchase of Iver Care Heartworm Medication for Paris PD Officer Goodwin's K9		17.97
10-30-07	Check #1727 Wal Mart Community for Purchase of Batteries/Charger Inverter for Task Force Hand Held Radio		77.71
10-30-07	Check #1728 Amera-Chem, Inc for Purchase of Subscription for CD Drug Bibles		96.95
10-30-07	DEPOSIT - Money Received from Roger Hopper for purchase of 1993 Chevrolet Geo Storm, forfeited from Thomas Guess	205.00	
10-31-07	SPLIT DEPOSIT INTEREST	850.00 4.56	
11-01-07	Check #1729 Visa for Following: Activation fo GPS Unit for Task Force Coordinator, Various Bills for Fuel and Food purchased by Dee Burgin During K-9 Training at Little Rock		1,057.77
11-09-07	Check #1730 Illini FS for September and October Fuel Usage for Task Force Coordinator's Squad Car		505.05
11-09-07	Check #1731 Specialty Batter for Purchase of Battery for Task Force Coordinator's Squad		69.95
11-09-07	Check #1732 Dick Henson for Towing Purple Chevrolet Geo Storm on 8/25/07 from RT 150 and Court Street, Thomas Guess Arrest		60.00

11-15-07	Check #1733 Secretary of State for Annual Renewal of Task Force Coordinator's License Plate, Number 793 7497	78.00
11-15-07	Check #1734 Farm Plan for Purchase of Doghouse Doors for Paris K-9 Thunder	39.98
11-15-07	Check #1735 Verizon Wireless for Monthly Service for Coordinator Hopper and Officer Rogers Wireless Internet	122.54
11-30-07	SPLIT DEPOSIT INTEREST	3,374.50 5.09
12-10-07	Check #1736 Computer Wares for Work on Terry Rogers' Computer	29.99
12-17-07	Check # 1737 Farm Plan for Monthly Service for Wireless Internet for Both Task Force Coordinator's Hopper and Roger's GPS Service from 12/4 - 1/3	105.13
12-31-07	SPLIT DEPOSIT INTEREST	1,327.50 16.49
12-31-07	Service Charge	.54

RECAPITULATION

Balance on hand as of 07-01-07	\$6,411.17
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RECEIPTS

Forfeiture-Deposits	\$ 10,471.25
Interest	\$ 39.62
Total	\$ 10,510.87

EXPENDITURES

Total	\$ 8,123.46
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Balance on hand as of December 31, 2007	\$8,788.58
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