ALLSOP, JC Complainant

Address

Phone

DOB

COWDEN Illinois 62422

Race

Sex Male Ethnicity

Non-Hispanic

WHITE Height

Weight

U CIE

Property

DEBIT CARD

Recovered

Brand

Model

Serial Number

Calor

Quantity

Total Value

Blue

1

\$1,377.36

Measurement

Amount Recovered \$0.00

Date Recovered

Status

Owner

Narratives

Original Narrative

08/18/2023 09:49:07

On 08/14/2023 I, Deputy Blake Hadley #546 was asked to attend the Herrick Fire Department board meeting. I attended the board meeting with Deputy Tracy Feldkamp #549. Herrick Fire Chief confronted Michael Garcia about the EMS debt card he had possession of. Fire Chief JC Allsop asked Michael if he had receipts from the ATM withdraws and listed other debt card transactions. Michael began to speak and look on his phone for receipts. Michael was unable to provide any proof for the transactions. I was contacted 08/10/2023 and was made aware about the incident and missing money at the Herrick Fire Department.

Herrick Fire Chief Allsop and the board stated to Michael he was terminated from Herrick Fire and EMS immediately. Chief Allsop and the board asked Michael for his pager portable and mobile out of his jeep. Michael provided the Herrick Fire Department with his turnout gear and pager portable and first aid bag. All items were placed in the Herrick Fire Department and was returned to them. A board member asked Michael in the meeting why he used the Herrick card to withdraw money from ATMs. Michael did not answer the question and the board member stated he knew for him to use the card he had to provide a receipt and get board approval.

Beguty Feldkamp retrieved surveillance footage of Michael at Walmart in Shelbyville using the card which belonged to the Herrick Fire Department. Chief Allsop also had surveillance footage of Mishael using the card at the Cowden Dollar General on another occasion.

Once the property was returned to the Herrick Fire Department I walked outside with Michael and stated he was going to be placed under arrest for theft over 500 dollars. Michael was placed in handcuffs I checked for fit and double locked for safety. While walking to my patrol car Michael stated he screwed up and stated he was wrong for using the card at Rise Recreational Dispensary in Effingham.

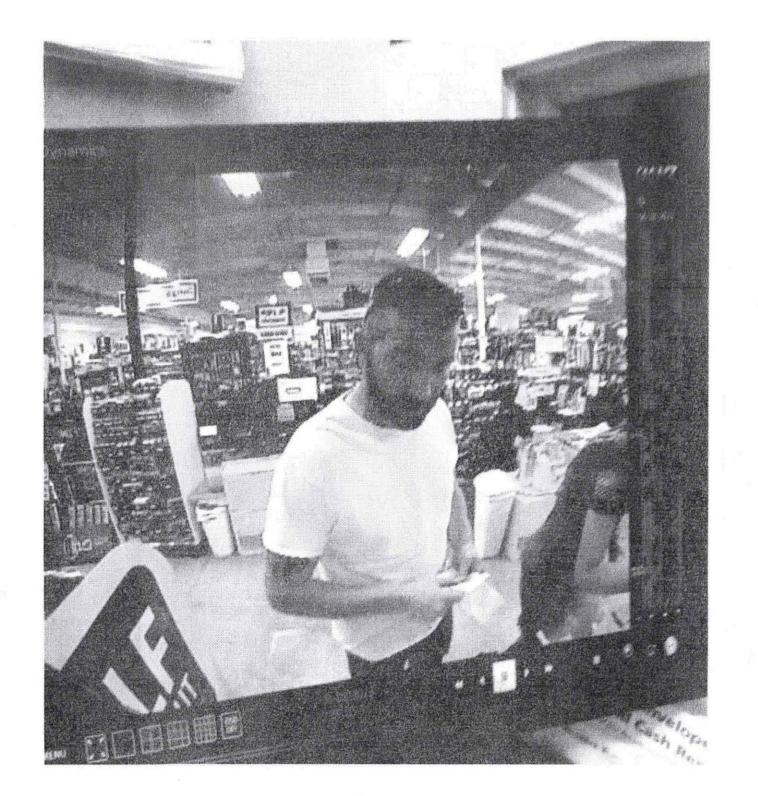
Michael was transported to the Shelby County Detention Facility with no issue. Once at the Shelby County Detention Facility custody of Michael was turned over to correctional officers on duty.

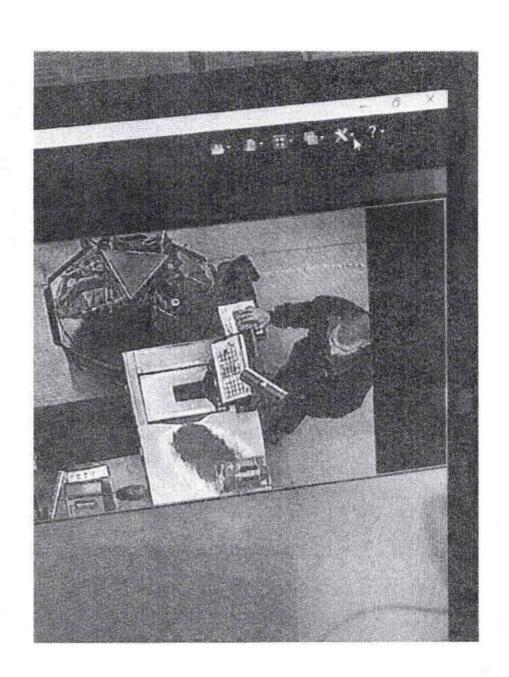
A short time later I placed Michael in the counsel room and read him Miranda Warning. Michael agreed he under stood Marinda Warning. I asked Michael if he wished to speak with me and he agreed. Michael began to state to me he believed he was using the wrong card all along. Michael also stated he was the only person to every have access to the card due to the fact he carried it in his wallet.

The Herrick Fire Chief and the board provided me with Copies of all the information they had and all the money which was unaccounted for. I will upload copies to my report. There is a total of 1,377.36 missing and unaccounted from the Herrick Fire Account. There will also be copies of bank statements receipts of transaction and an itemized list of the money accounted for. Chief Allsop provided me a picture where Michael had used the card at the Cowden Dollar General and they had Michael on camera using the card.

Attached to report.

- 1. Miranda Warning
- 2. Copy of bank statements
- 3. Missing money breakdown.
- 4. Photos of Michael using card
- 5. James Allsop Statement





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Michael Garcia moved to the area in October 2021. November 2021 Mr. Garcia attended his first meeting as a fire fighter. March 2022 Mr. Garcia received his EMR license. November 2022 former Fire chief Norman Wilson passed away from cancer and Sept 2022 Norman had appointed James C. Allsop as new Fire chief and Michael Garcia as EMS Coordinator. November 2022 Norman Wilson was removed from Herrick first responder account and Michael Garcia was added. Teresa Allsop was already on this account as a signee with Chief Wilson and was left on the account with the new EMS Coordinator. Mr. Garcia agreed to hold the Herrick First Responder's account debit card to use for purchasing supplies online that was needed for the first responders, as our previous EMS Coordinator had done. But not before the purchase is discussed and/or voted on by the members, with a return of the receipt. This account is for our donations from fund-raising and funeral memorials

Misuse was not suspected until August 2023 during a meeting while discussing consolidating bank accounts, we discovered bank statements that had been missing since January 2023. These bank statements were hidden in the bottom of a drawer under other papers. On these bank statements we started noticing charges that were unknown and not approved by members attending the meeting. Then we started to notice on these statements there were ATM withdrawals, which are never allowed. Once we found these, we decided as a group to look deeper into this before we accused anyone. Once we found misconduct, we notified our board president and law enforcement, I conducted a meeting with my officers to decided what actions to take. At that time, we decided to move forward with charges and termination of Mr. Garcia. We decided to have law enforcement present when we presented the information to Mr. Garcia and the rest of the board members at the monthly board meeting. At this time, we are still looking into any other missing items from the fire department.

James C. Allsop, Herrick Fire Chief