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[News Briefs]

Former Metro Employee Sentenced to Repay Metro

(August 19, 2009) A former Metro employee was sentenced Aug. 12 to repay Metro more than \$18,000, after pleading guilty to misappropriating petty cash funds at Metro’s cost centers, according to Chief Ethics Officer and Acting Inspector General Karen Gorman.

The employee was charged July 21 following an investigation by Metro’s Office of Inspector General (OIG) which involved questionable petty cash documents submitted by the employee.

Specifically, the OIG investigation revealed that between 2002 and 2009 the employee submitted more than 240 duplicated and/or falsified documents from 42 vendors to support more than \$18,000 in bogus petty cash purchases.

The long-term employee immediately terminated his employment with Metro, after OIG Investigators met with him to discuss the evidence. A felony complaint was filed by the Los Angeles County District Attorney on July 21, and the employee surrendered to authorities.

At his sentencing, the employee was ordered to pay back \$18,435.95 in restitution to Metro, three years probation, and 400 hours of community service. Any violation of probation can result in actual jail time being served.

“I am sad to see an employee end their many decades-long career at Metro by making such bad choices,” said Gorman.