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Former City of Dayton Employee Guilty on 145 Counts Agrees to Five Year Prison Sentence and Pay Full Restitution

State v. Christen Turner 2014-CR-2852

DAYTON, OH (02/23/2015) – Prosecuting Attorney Mat Heck, Jr. announced today that **Christen C. Turner**, 39, of Dayton, entered guilty pleas to 145 felony counts involving a theft scheme from the City of Dayton.

In 2013, suspicious activity in one of the City of Dayton's financial accounts prompted an internal review. The account, the city's "Morals Fund", is money the city has set aside to pay, among other things, claims brought by citizens for which the city is liable, such as minor property damage caused by city workers.

On December 9, 2013, after the internal review, the defendant, a city employee since 1996, who was employed in the office of the city law director and was given the authority to sign approval of legitimate claims in the amount of \$2,500 or less, was fired from her position. The Dayton Police Department initiated a lengthy and complex investigation, with assistance from BCI, Secret Service and the Prosecutor Office's Consumer Fraud and Economics Crime Division Investigators.

The investigation revealed that between 2009 and 2013, the defendant and others were involved in a criminal scheme wherein the defendant would create false claims against the city in her friends' names, sign approval for the fake claims and give the checks to her friends.

These co-conspirators, none of whom worked for the City of Dayton, would then either cash the checks or have others cash the checks on their behalf, and everyone would then share in the proceeds. In total, the defendant was responsible for issuing 146 checks, stealing about \$365,000 from the City of Dayton. Eight of the co-conspirators were previously convicted. Two received probation, three were sentenced to prison, and three are awaiting sentencing.

Today, the defendant was found guilty as charged of:

- One count of Engaging in a Pattern of Corrupt Activity
- One count of Theft in Office over \$7,500
- 143 counts of Tampering With Government Records

The defendant will be sentenced February 24, 2015 at 11:30 am. The defendant will be sentenced to five years in prison, ordered to pay full restitution, and will be barred from any employment with a public office once she is released from prison.

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