

**Mailing Addresses:**

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Robert D. Sumner Judicial Center  
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West Pasco Judicial Center  
7530 Little Road, Suite 106  
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14236 Sixth Street, Suite 201  
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West Pasco Government Center  
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East Pasco Records Center  
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*Excellence...Always*

*Paula S. O'Neil, Ph.D.*  
*Clerk & Comptroller*  
*Pasco County, Florida*

April 16, 2018

Chairman Mike Wells  
Pasco County Board of County Commissioners  
8734 Citizens Drive  
New Port Richey, FL 34654

Re: East Pasco Transfer Station Burglary

Dear Chairman Wells and Members of the Board,

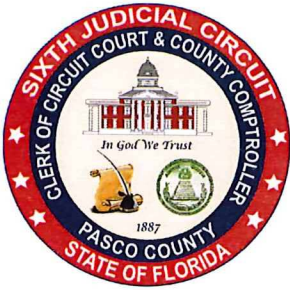
On 3/27/2018, the Clerk & Comptroller's Department of Inspector General (IG) was notified of the burglary at the East Pasco Transfer Station. As a result of the burglary, the Pasco County Sheriff's Office took the safe as evidence, which contained the change fund and daily deposit.

The IG team was present when the safe was opened to inventory the items inside the safe, and determine if any money was missing. The East Pasco Transfer Station change fund amount was \$200.

Due to the condition of the safe, the Pasco County Sheriff's Office could not open the safe. On 3/28/2018, the unopened safe was released to David Ostuno, Solid Waste Facility Operator.

On 3/28/2018, the IG team observed and noted the following:

- The safe was in poor condition, and the combination could not be used to open the safe because the dial had been ripped off. The Solid Waste Facility Operator used tools to cut and pry the safe open.
- The change fund was scattered and stuck between layers inside the safe. A total of \$195.82 in bills (\$176) and coins (\$19.82) was retrieved.
- There was a SunTrust bank bag with the daily deposit from 3/26/2018 that totaled \$435.17 (\$380.61 in cash and one check for \$54.56). The IG team verified the deposit amount agreed to the amount collected, as reflected on the Operator Cash Report provided on 03/27/2018.



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- The IG documented the change fund was short \$4.18, most likely due to the attempted burglary.
- As of 4/11/18, staff was still in the process of replenishing the amount short, and was working the Clerk & Comptroller's Department of Financial Services.

We appreciate the cooperation and professionalism received from the Utilities staff. The IG team is especially thankful for the determination and "can do" attitude of the Solid Waste Facility Operator. He went above and beyond what we expected in his effort to recover as much of the money as possible.

Please let us know if you wish to discuss any of the information provided above.

Sincerely,

*Paula S. O'Neil, Ph.D.  
Clerk & Comptroller*

PSO/pmm

cc: Michael Caraballa, Interim Assistant County Administrator  
Bob Sigmond, Public Infrastructure Administration Director  
Allan Biddlecomb, Interim Solid Waste Director  
Manny Long, Director of Financial Services