

# Police audit is asked; clerk claims firing

**By DAN McCOSH**  
 The Oakland County prosecutor has asked for an audit of the Farmington Hills police records as a result of the investigation of the alleged 'embezzlement' of department funds recently.  
 In addition, the clerk who uncovered the alleged embezzlement says she was coerced by Director Ronald Holko into typing out a memo indicating her resignation was voluntary, because she was unsatisfied with her salary.  
 "He (the director) says I quit, why should I quit? I was supposed to get a 30 cent-an-hour raise. I didn't quit, I was fired," Mrs. Deborah Roberts told the Observer and Eccentric.

"I'm sure the results of the investigation will show our side," he added.  
 The Hills council Monday appointed two committees: a police review board and a personnel committee, to review the clerk's firing and the suspension of Lt. William Kelly, the officer who also attempted to report the shortage.  
 Mayor Robert McConnell named Margaret Schaeffer, Mrs. Joan Dudley, and William Ortman to the personnel committee, and Frederick Lichtman, Earl Oppenheimer and Keith Deacon to the police review board.  
 Kelly is appealing his suspension, and Mrs. Roberts is appealing her termination of employment.  
 The "violation of department rules" of both Kelly and Mrs. Roberts was apparently mainly going outside of channels to report the embezzlement.  
 "These questions of chain of command, confidentiality of an investigation, etc., will be answered by the hearing, City Manager George Majoros said.

Both hearings are expected to begin in approximately two weeks. The reported embezzlement was of approximately \$1,900 over a 14-month period of money turned in to the department for payment of fees of copies of police records, etc.  
 Results of an internal investigation were turned over to the Oakland County prosecutor for review. The prosecutor Tuesday recommended an audit of the department "apparently a prelude to issuing warrants," according to Majoros.

**SHE SAID SHE** discovered the shortage in the cash she handled several weeks ago, including some apparently altered receipts.  
 "They keep saying it was in the records department, it was in the administrative offices," she added.  
 While it wasn't clear exactly how the shortage was reported, the information was apparently received by Lt. William Kelly, recently appointed to head the records department.  
 Kelly says he conducted a personal audit, then checked it with the city finance department.  
 City officials say Kelly reported the alleged embezzlement to state police after an internal investigation was underway.  
 Kelly was suspended for alleged "violation of department rules" and Mrs. Roberts says she was fired for the same reason.  
 She adds she was told to type a memo indicating she was resigning, and was warned not to tell about the dismissal.  
 She has since filed a grievance with the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees asking for reinstatement.  
 "She's a liar, there was no coercion on my part," Holko said in answer to the charge. "The resignation was her idea."  
 He added he could not comment further because of the investigation in progress.

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Published every Monday and Thursday by the Observer & Eccentric Newspapers, 30251 Schoolcraft Rd., Livonia, Michigan 48150. Second-class Postage paid at Livonia, Michigan 48151. Address all mail (subscriptions, change of address, Form 3579) to P.O. Box 2428, Livonia, Michigan 48151. Telephone 261-3800.

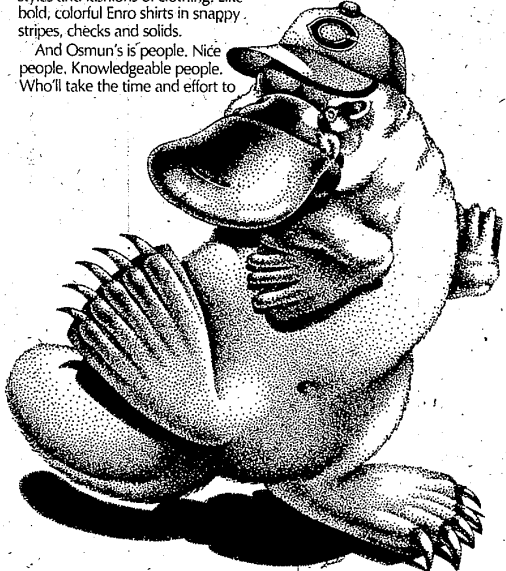
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 Henry M. Hogan, Jr. Philip H. Power

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