



Office of the Inspector General Commonwealth of Massachusetts

OIG Investigation Leads to Indictment of Former Ashburnham Library Director for Embezzling Library Funds, April 2016

Following a joint investigation by the Office of the Inspector General (“OIG”) and the Massachusetts State Police assigned to the Worcester District Attorney’s Office, the former director of the Stevens Memorial Library in Ashburnham was arraigned on April 8, 2016 for embezzling over \$53,000 intended for the library.

In March 2016, a Worcester County grand jury indicted Cheryl Paul-Bradley, 54, with three counts of fraud or embezzlement by a city, town or county officer; two counts of forgery; and two counts of uttering.

Worcester County prosecutors allege that between 2010 and 2014, Paul-Bradley deliberately misdirected library monies into a bank account she concealed from the Library Board of Trustees (“the Board”), which oversees the Stevens Memorial Library. Unbeknownst to the Board, Paul-Bradley withdrew approximately \$53,500 in cash from the bank account between 2010 and 2014. When the Board discovered the hidden bank account in July 2014, it hired the accounting firm Greenberg, Rosenblatt, Kull & Bitsoli to review the library’s finances. During the audit, Paul-Bradley produced nearly \$34,000 in cash, claiming it had been secured inside the library for years. However, OIG investigators uncovered evidence that Paul-Bradley had withdrawn \$34,000 in cash from credit card advances and a home equity loan earlier that same morning.

Paul-Bradley is presumed innocent until proven guilty.

For additional information about the charge against Paul-Bradley, see the Worcester County District Attorney’s press release at <http://worcesterda.com/press/former-ashburnham-library-director-arraigned/>.