



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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City of Johnston Employee Terminated Due to Gross Misconduct

JOHNSTON, Iowa – Following an internal investigation in July, Accounting Clerk Teresa Osborne was terminated from her position with the City for gross misconduct. Actions by Ms. Osborne that resulted in her termination included falsifying city records, supplying false information, theft of public funds and dishonesty. Preliminary findings by the City's Finance Director and Johnston Police Department linked Ms. Osborne to multiple thefts of City funds. The State Auditor's Office was immediately contacted and asked to perform a special audit.

"It is disappointing anytime someone you have placed your trust in violates that trust – in this instance, it was a City employee," said Mayor Paula Dierenfeld. "I want to assure our residents that we take matters like this very seriously and began an investigation as soon as a discrepancy was detected. Misappropriation of City funds will not be tolerated."

The City took immediate actions to improve the security measures surrounding the handling of City funds, including those recommended by the State Auditor. City staff and the Johnston Police Department worked closely with the State Auditor's Office as the special audit was performed.

The State Auditor released a report of its special audit today, a copy of which is available on the Auditor of State's [website](#). Copies of the report have also been filed with the Division of Criminal Investigation, the Polk County Attorney's office and the Attorney General's office.

The Johnston Police Department's investigation into this matter is ongoing. Pursuant to final review of the State Auditor's report and in consultation with the Polk County Attorney's office, criminal charges may be forthcoming.

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