



State of Louisiana
Office of the Governor
Office of State Inspector General

August 27, 2009

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Division of Administration Employee Arrested For Multiple Felonies

BATON ROUGE – An investigation conducted by the Office of State Inspector General, with the assistance of the Louisiana State Police and the Attorney General’s High Technology Crime Unit, has resulted in the arrest today of Nellie P. Rogers for 13 felony counts of Forgery, 13 felony counts of Bank Fraud and 13 felony counts of Malfeasance in Office.

Nellie Rogers is employed with the Louisiana Division of Administration. Part of her job duties included collecting health insurance premiums for recent retirees and submitting them to the Office of Group Benefits, the agency which oversees health insurance plans for current and retired state employees. The investigation revealed that between January 25, 2009 and July 24, 2009, Ms. Rogers intercepted thirteen separate checks made payable and submitted to the Division of Administration by recent retirees to cover their health insurance premiums. She was supposed to credit them to the retirees’ accounts and forward the appropriate amounts to the Office of Group Benefits. Instead, she altered the checks to make herself an additional payee. She then took the checks, totaling \$4,078.80, to the La Capitol Federal Credit Union and deposited them into her own personal account. When an internal audit uncovered possible criminal acts by Ms. Rogers,

the Division of Administration made a referral to the Inspector General for a formal criminal investigation.

State Inspector General Stephen Street said: “The criminal actions uncovered in this case are particularly troubling because the victims were retirees, who in some instances had their health insurance cancelled because the money they sent in for premiums never made it to the Office of Group Benefits. This is exactly the sort of fraudulent and corrupt behavior that the State Inspector General was created to root out.”

Commissioner of Administration Angele Davis said: “The Division of Administration was first alerted to a possible problem by a recently retired state group benefits policy holder on July 28. Within a day I tasked the Division’s internal audit office to begin an inquiry. On July 30, the employee involved was suspended pending a complete investigation. And on August 7 the Division’s internal audit office referred the matter in a report to the State Inspector General.”

“The behavior alleged in this case is egregious and unacceptable, and we moved swiftly to stop it and to take prompt corrective action. We are now working with the Office of Group Benefits to make certain that policy holders are protected and that victims are restored. And we have worked with the Inspector General’s office to improve procedures to make sure something like this never happens again,” Davis added.

State Inspector General Stephen Street also said that the next step is to determine the extent of the criminal conduct and whether it goes beyond that which has already been uncovered. “We are continuing with our investigation,” Street said.

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