



INSPECTOR GENERAL REPORT

2009-04-0063

June 15, 2009

INDIANA NATIVE AMERICAN INDIAN AFFAIRS COMMISSION

Inspector General Staff Attorney Kristi Shute, after an investigation by Special Agent Dave Clark, reports as follows:

On April 2, 2009, the Office of the Inspector General received information alleging that money appropriated to the Indiana Native American Indian Affairs Commission (“Commission”) was being improperly managed. The complaint stated that the Commission has been inactive since May of 2008 due to several resignations. The complaint questioned where the Commission’s appropriations were held and whether they were being properly maintained and distributed since the Commission has been inactive for a significant amount of time.

The Commission was created by the Indiana General Assembly in 2003 and was officially recognized in 2004. *See:* IC 4-4-31.4. Its purpose is to study problems common to Native American Indian residents of Indiana in the areas of employment, education, civil rights, health and housing. The Department of Workforce Development (“DWD”) provides staff and administrative support for the Commission.

The Commission is provided operating costs in two ways. One line item is appropriated to the Commission each year for operating expenses, with the remaining balance reverting back to the General Fund at the end of each fiscal year. As of May 27, 2009, there was \$97,004.29 in this account which reverted to the General Fund at the end of June 2009. The Commission also receives money from the Bureau of Motor Vehicles (“BMV”) through the sale of the Native American Trust License Plate. The balance in this trust rolls over from year to year. As of May 27, 2009, there was \$29,685 in the trust. Originally the money from this trust was used to support Prophetstown State Park, but that support ended at the end of January 2009 as directed by IC 9-18-44-4.

It was discovered that the only money spent for 2008-2009 was recouped by the DWD from the allocated funds for reimbursement to cover utilities and office maintenance. The BMV continues to receive money from license plate sales which is being held and rolled over for the Commission’s use.

In summary, the Commission is not currently functioning due to the resignation of its members. Because it has been determined that the Commission’s funds are being properly maintained and distributed during its period of inactivity, this case is closed for lack of merit.

Dated this 15th day of June, 2009.

APPROVED BY ME:



David O. Thomas, Inspector General