

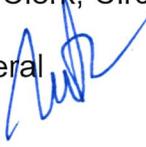


Memorandum



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To: The Honorable Carlos A. Gimenez, Mayor, Miami-Dade County
The Honorable Audrey Edmonson, Chairwoman
and Members, Board of County Commissioners, Miami-Dade County
The Honorable Harvey Ruvin, Clerk, Circuit and County Courts

From: Mary T. Cagle, Inspector General 

Date: January 23, 2020

Subject: Former Clerk of the Courts Employee Arrested for Creating Bogus and Forged Court Records to Conceal the Theft of Fines and Fees – Ref. 19-0005-I

An investigation by the Miami-Dade County Office of the Inspector General (OIG) concluded today with the arrest of Norris Kimble (Kimble), a longtime Clerk of the Courts (COC) employee. The investigation, jointly conducted with the State Attorney's Office, was initiated based on a referral from the COC. The charges stem from the forged and fraudulent documents Kimble created to conceal his theft of traffic citation fines and court fees.

Kimble, a Courtroom Clerk 1 with the COC, was assigned to the Traffic/Misdemeanor Division, Traffic Information Unit, in Hialeah, Florida. The investigation found that Kimble prepared false documents, including payment plan agreements and requests for trial, for four customers attempting to pay traffic citation fines. Some of the phony payment and court documents bear the forged signatures of the customers. All four customers paid cash, allowing Kimble to pocket most of the cash and record only a small amount as fines and fees in the COC payment transaction records. The customers, who believed they had paid their fines and fees in full, were left with their matters pending and subject to license suspension.

Kimble was arrested on felony charges of Official Misconduct, Forgery, Grand Theft, and Organized Scheme to Defraud. Attached is an SAO press release with further details about the criminal charges. The OIG appreciates the invaluable assistance of COC personnel during this investigation.

cc: Michael Henderson, Chief of Staff, Clerk of the Courts
Edward Marquez, Deputy Mayor
Cathy Jackson, Director, Audit and Management Services Department
Yinka Majekodunmi, Commission Auditor



KATHERINE FERNANDEZ RUNDLE STATE ATTORNEY



ELEVENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT IN AND FOR MIAMI-DADE COUNTY

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Former Clerk of Court Employee Charged in Thefts

Miami (January 23, 2020). - As a result of a joint investigation by the Miami-Dade County Office of the Inspector General and the Miami-Dade State Attorney's Office, a former employee of the Clerk of the Courts has been criminally charged.

The Office of the Inspector General's investigation began in 2018 at the request of the Clerk of Courts Harvey Ruvlin. Allegations had surfaced that 39-year-old Courtroom Clerk Norris Kimble, a 16 year County employee, while acting in his official capacity in the Hialeah Traffic/Misdemeanor Division, accepted cash payments from four customers and created fictitious payment transactions in the Clerk's Office databases to hide his activity while keeping a portion of the monies collected. It is also alleged that Kimble altered official court records to further disguise the theft of approximately \$1809.00.

All four Clerk of the Courts customers said they resolved the legal issues concerning their respective traffic citations in question with cash payments. All left the Hialeah Traffic/Misdemeanor Division believing that their individual citation situations had been resolved. These same customers later discovered their respective citations remained unresolved. Through the review of Clerk of the Courts databases, documents, and the testimony of Clerk of the Courts employees and customers, the investigation connected these incidents directly to Kimble.

Norris Kimble has been charged with the following 3rd Degree Felony offenses:

- 4 Counts - Official Misconduct
- 3 Counts - Forgery
- 4 Counts - Theft
- 1 Count - Organized Scheme to Defraud

"The lesson of Norris Kimble is simple; if you steal from the people of Dade County you will pay a price, whether it is the loss of your reputation, the loss of your profession, a loss of your very freedom, or all 3. We all take this mission of ridding our government of corruption very, very seriously," said State Attorney Katherine Fernandez Rundle.

Inspector General Mary T. Cagle stated: "It is always disturbing and disheartening when a public servant uses his official position to enrich himself, but more so, as in this case, when the brazen actions jeopardize the integrity of the Clerk's Office and the Court system."

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