

Summary: Investigation of Alleged Theft from the Northern Arapahoe Tribe

Report Date: October 7, 2016

A former senior officer for the Northern Arapaho Tribe, Ethete, WY, alleged that a former administrative assistant for the Tribe used a tribal credit card to steal approximately \$20,000 in cash advances to herself and for personal purchases. The complaint also alleged that the former administrative assistant used tribal funds to pay her mortgage. During our investigation, we also received an allegation that a former official of the Northern Arapaho Tribe Tribal Grants Program used tribal funds to pay his mortgage.

Our investigation confirmed the former administrative assistant used a tribal credit card to take the cash advances and to make purchases for her personal use. We also confirmed that the former grants official used his position to award himself a grant, which he used to pay his mortgage.

The former administrative assistant admitted she misused the credit card; however, she said she completed these actions at the direction of her supervisor and the Northern Arapaho Tribal Business Council (Business Council), and after being “threatened” by members of the Business Council. We could not substantiate the allegation that the former administrative assistant used tribal funds to pay her mortgage or that members of the Business Council threatened her.

We presented this case to the U.S. Attorney’s Office for the District of Wyoming, which declined criminal prosecution.

This is a summary of a report of investigation that was issued to the Bureau of Indian Affairs.

