

**PRESS RELEASE**

**For Immediate Release**

**November 8, 2013**

Recently, the Wood Dale Police Department was made aware of allegations of potential theft of the proceeds from the sale of discarded City scrap metal by a City of Wood Dale Public Works employee.

An investigation began immediately by the Police Department. Based upon this investigation, it is alleged that Mark Thiede, a Supervisor in the Utilities Division who has since retired, allegedly sold City owned scrap metal without tendering the proceeds of the sale of the scrap to the City. It is alleged that over \$2,500 was stolen from the City.

“While it is disappointing that an employee would take City property for his own, I am pleased by the fact that the theft was detected by the City”, said Jeff Mermuys, City Manager. The City has implemented further safeguards to prevent employees from being able to have access to the proceeds from the sale of scrap metal. The City has in place a series of checks and balances to protect City assets. “This is an isolated incident that has been addressed. We will let the Court system take it from here,” commented Police Chief Greg Vesta.

The Wood Dale Police Department conducted this investigation in cooperation with the DuPage County State’s Attorney’s Office. The State’s Attorney has charged Mark Thiede with four counts of Theft, which are Class A misdemeanor offenses.

Members of the public are reminded that these complaints contain only charges and are not proof of the defendant’s guilt. A defendant is presumed innocent and is entitled to a fair trial in which it is the government’s burden to prove his or her guilt beyond a reasonable doubt.

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