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SWANCC Sues Former Executive Director Charged in \$900,000 Embezzlement Scheme

Federal suit seeks full recovery of funds stolen and related costs

Glenview, IL, June 28, 2011 -- The Solid Waste Agency of Northern Cook County (SWANCC) today filed a civil lawsuit against its former executive director seeking the full recovery of funds stolen from the Agency over a several year period.

The lawsuit filed in Federal court today names Brooke Beal, SWANCC's former executive director, as the person responsible for the theft of more than \$900,000 from the agency.

The suit alleges that Beal falsely and fraudulently reimbursed himself using SWANCC funds for education courses he never took. The suit also alleges that Beal altered documents in an attempt to mislead auditors into thinking that funds paid to him were approved by the Agency when, in fact, they were not.

Details of the alleged scheme by Beal to embezzle funds are outlined in the suit (attached) filed today in the United States District Court, Northern District of Illinois.

"We have said since day one that SWANCC would take every necessary step to recover funds that were embezzled from the Agency, from our member communities and their residents," said Skokie Mayor George Van Dusen, who serves as SWANCC's chairman of the Board of Directors. "Today's action represents a significant, affirmative step in that direction. We owe nothing less to the residents who rely on the service we provide to 23 communities."

The suit also seeks full recovery of costs incurred by the Agency subsequent to the discovery of missing funds. Some of those costs include attorney fees and expenses related to damage assessment and internal investigations which were launched immediately after the discovery of missing funds.

"Our member communities and their taxpayers should not be asked to foot the bill to cover the costs associated with the embezzlement of funds from this Agency," said Van

Dusen. “That’s why we will seek to recover not just the funds stolen from us, but also the costs incurred by SWANCC related to the criminal activity.”

Last October, SWANCC suspended Beal immediately following the discovery of missing funds during the course of an annual, independent audit of the Agency’s finances. Beal resigned just a few days after being suspended.

In March, the Cook County State’s Attorney’s Office charged Beal with theft of government property, a Class X felony carrying mandatory jail time and a maximum sentence of 30 years.

The Agency is in the midst of a search for a new executive director. It received resumes and applications for the position from 15 states and is now interviewing several qualified candidates and expects to name a new executive director this summer.

“We have been very impressed with the caliber of candidates that have expressed an interest in moving SWANCC forward and look forward to appointing the right candidate who can help us deliver on our mission in the most effective way on behalf of the 23 communities we represent,” said Van Dusen.

About SWANCC

The Solid Waste Agency of Northern Cook County (SWANCC) provides member residents a variety of waste reduction and recycling services, programs and resource materials. These include collections for special materials that cannot go into the curbside recycling cart or should not go into the garbage due to toxicity or recoverability, such as: computer and electronics, prescription drugs and sharps, compact fluorescent light (CFL) bulbs, mercury thermometers, athletic shoes, holiday lights and batteries.

SWANCC is an intergovernmental agency that was established in 1988 and is comprised of 23 communities: Arlington Heights, Barrington, Buffalo Grove, Elk Grove Village, Evanston, Glencoe, Glenview, Hoffman Estates, Inverness, Kenilworth, Lincolnwood, Morton Grove, Mount Prospect, Niles, Palatine, Park Ridge, Prospect Heights, Rolling Meadows, Skokie, South Barrington, Wheeling, Wilmette and Winnetka.

Visit swancc.org for more information.

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