

Summary: Unsubstantiated allegations against former tribal official for Clarks Point Village, AK

Report Date: October 7, 2016

OIG investigated allegations that a former Clarks Point Village official stole funds from the tribe by writing herself checks from the Tribe's checking account in excess of \$56,000 between 2008 and 2012.

Clarks Point is a compact tribe with the Bristol Bay Native Association (BBNA), which administers their federal funds, including \$169,000 received annually from the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA). The former official's salary was paid directly by BBNA using BIA funds. The former official stated the checks she wrote to herself from the Clarks Point account were an authorized supplement to her income; however, the Tribe told us the former official was already receiving supplemental income from BBNA and the checks she wrote to herself amounted to "double dipping."

Our investigation did not substantiate the allegations of theft. We determined that the accused former official received approximately \$51,000 in checks issued from the Clarks Point Village's checking account between 2008 and 2012. The former official did not circumvent council approval, as she obtained signatures from two council members on each check, and an executive board member on at least 19 occasions. We found that the checks were consistently issued as supplemental payroll from 1998 to 2012.

We could not determine if the former official received the supplemental payment from both BBNA and Clarks Point Village because BBNA payroll records did not indicate the rate or amount of supplemental pay in Clark's hourly wage. BBNA allows supplemental pay, but requires that any payment be made through their payroll and invoiced to the Tribe. Clarks Point Village did authorize supplemental pay for the former official through BBNA, however BBNA could not confirm that they made the supplemental payments or that they invoiced Clarks Point Village.

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

This is a summary of a report of investigation that was issued to BIA for information.

