

Summary: Tribal Police Officer Stole Funds Designated for Youth Diversion Program

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The OIG investigated allegations that Fort Peck Assiniboine & Sioux Tribal Police Officer Willard White stole \$40,000 from the Tribe. White allegedly obtained the funds under the pretense of creating a youth diversion program but spent the money on personal purchases and did not create the program.

We found the Tribe gave White \$40,000 to create a youth diversion program. White, however, spent the entire amount on personal purchases, none of which supported the establishment of the proposed program. In addition, White did not report the \$40,000 as income to the Internal Revenue Service (IRS).

White pleaded guilty in U.S. District Court for the District of Montana to one count of 18 U.S.C. § 1343, Wire Fraud, and one count of 26 U.S.C. § 7201, Income Tax Evasion. On October 9, 2019, White was sentenced to 6 months in prison and 2 years of supervised release and was ordered to pay \$40,000 in restitution to the Fort Peck Tribe, \$18,050 in restitution to the IRS, and a \$200 special assessment.

This is a summary of an investigative report we issued to the Bureau of Indian Affairs Director.

