

Report Highlights

City of Pineville

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Why We Conducted This Audit

We initiated this audit to determine the validity of complaints we received regarding the City of Pineville's (City) use of public funds.

What We Found

Employee's Hire Date Backdated for Early Insurance Eligibility

City records show that former Mayor Richard Dupree (Mayor Dupree) instructed City Human Resources staff to backdate the hire date of a new employee to ensure the new employee received health insurance prior to becoming eligible under the City's policy. By instructing staff to alter City records, Mayor Dupree may have violated state law.

Mayor and City Council Members Appear to Have Received Excess Compensation

Records show that the City Council (Council) set the mayor and Council members' salary, by ordinance, in December 2002. Since then, the City appears to have increased the salaries of the mayor and Council members without passing an ordinance as required by state law. In addition, it appears the City provided additional compensation, in the form of health insurance benefits to the mayor and Council members, without passing an ordinance. Payments and compensation in excess of the salaries and benefits set by the Council may violate state law.

Ethics - Prohibited Contractual Arrangements

Records indicate that the City employed Brittany Constantino as the Director of Operations and Special Events from February 13, 2023 to March 19, 2024. Within the same period (May 1, 2023 to March 19, 2024), the City issued seven payments totaling \$4,100 to Enchanted Celebrations, LLC, a company owned by Ms. Constantino and/or her husband, Christopher Heath Constantino (who typically goes by Heath Constantino), for providing cartoon characters for City events and parades. Because Ms. Constantino and/or her husband contracted with the City during her employment, she may have violated the state's ethics laws.

City Vehicle Not Marked in Accordance with State Law