

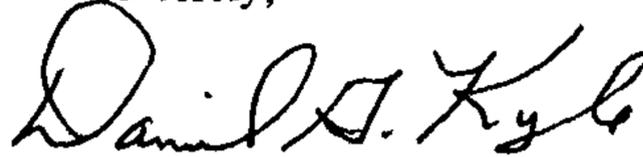
The Honorable Abe E. Pierce, III, Mayor  
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2. The Department also ordered 200 canisters of pepper spray totaling \$1,903 from Teeco Safety, Incorporated, (Teeco) during August and October 1995 and February 1996. Teeco purchased the pepper spray from GSA who purchased the product from the manufacturer, Defense Technology Corporation. Defense Technology Corporation products are available from another distributor in Louisiana and the pepper spray could have been obtained through this distributor.
3. The Department contracts with Mallet Telephone and Electronics (MTE) to install center consoles in the Department's fleet vehicles. Mr. Dana Mallett, President of MTE and a reserve officer for the Department, informed us that he purchases these consoles from GSA. Mr. Mallett stated that GSA was the only vendor who sold the specific console used by the Department. However, we determined that this specific console is available from a number of suppliers in Louisiana.

The city should issue a written statement of policy and distribute it to all employees of the Monroe City Police Department informing them of (1) the ruling issued by the Commission, (2) the need to comply with the Commission's ruling, and (3) the need to bring possible ethical violations to the immediate attention of an appropriate level of management. Furthermore, the city should request that the Commission on Ethics for Public Employees review the above information and take appropriate action.

If you need additional assistance, please call me.

Sincerely,



Daniel G. Kyle, CPA, CFE  
Legislative Auditor

DGK:DGP:mf



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December 11, 1996

The Honorable Abe E. Pierce, III, Mayor  
City of Monroe  
Post Office Box 123  
Monroe, Louisiana 71210

Dear Mayor Pierce:

My office received allegations of possible violations of ethics laws involving Mr. Joe R. Stewart, Chief of the Monroe City Police Department (Department). In accordance with Title 24 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes, representatives of my office reviewed selected transactions of the Department, made inquiries to determine the nature of these transactions, reviewed various correspondence between the Louisiana Commission on Ethics for Public Employees (Commission) and the city, and reviewed applicable Louisiana laws.

Our review revealed that on September 24, 1992, the Commission issued a ruling stating that it would be a violation of Louisiana Revised Statutes (LSA-R.S.) 42:1112-1113 (the Louisiana Code of Governmental Ethics) for Chief Stewart to participate in a transaction in which his brother, Mr. Glenn P. Stewart or Glenn Stewart and Associates (GSA), would have a substantial economic interest. In addition, on March 1, 1993, in a letter to Chief Stewart, the Commission further concluded that the Department should not place an order with a vendor if the Department is aware or should be aware that the items ordered will ultimately come from GSA.

During our review, we learned of several transactions between three vendors and the Department that may be in violation of the Louisiana Ethics Law and the Commission's ruling and require your attention as follows:

1. On September 2, 1993, the Department ordered 115 ballistic vests from Second Chance Body Armor, Incorporated, (Second Chance) at a cost of \$27,727. An additional 25 vests were ordered between August 11, 1994, and February 15, 1995. GSA is the distributor for Second Chance in northern Louisiana. Subsequent to receiving the order, Second Chance contacted GSA to measure the Department's officers for the vests. According to Mr. Glenn Stewart, GSA received a \$10 per vest sizing fee for measuring the Department's officers. Mr. Glenn Stewart told us that one of his employees spent the equivalent of three or four days (24 to 32 man-hours) measuring the officers.