



Ocala Police Department
402 S. Pine Avenue
Ocala, FL 34471
352-369-7000

CASE NARRATIVE
Incident #: 201900183389
Detective S. Rowe

On 10/22/19 at approximately 1540 hrs., I made contact with the City Of Ocala Fiscal Operations Supervisor, Anthony Webber, via telephone. Webber advised that the City of Ocala was involved in a contract with Ausley Construction Co. Inc, , 1521 SE 36 Ave, Suit1, Ocala FL, to complete several projects. Webber advised that Senior Accounting Specialist [REDACTED] was contacted ,via email, in Septemeber 2019 by a person representing themselves as [REDACTED] Sheaffer an Accounting Specialist for Ausley Construction. The email requested the file for Ausley Construction's banking information be updated and it provided a new EFT Authorization Form featuring a new routing number for payment. On 10/17/19, a payment of \$742,376.73 was forwarded via the new routing number to an Fifth Third Bank for payment of a new airport terminal. This transaction was completed on 10/18/19. Ausley Construction did not receive the payment and Webber advised to have become aware of the fraud on 10/22/19 at 1000hrs. [REDACTED] Sheaffer was contacted via telephone and he advised he was no longer employed by Ausley Construction and did not forward the email to [REDACTED] containing the new EFT Authorization Form. Webber advised they attempted to speak with a representative of Fifth Third Bank and were referred to Law Enforcement. Webber provided me with the email exchange between Wright and the suspect. I later uploaded this email exchange, via PDF, into the electronic CIS case file for this incident.

On 10/22/19 at approximately 1600 hrs., The City of Ocala Network Security Officer Christopher Ramos contacted me via telephone. Ramos advised to have reviewed the email exchanges completed between [REDACTED] and the suspect and had obtained data that may assist in the investigation. Ramos requested I respond to his office located at the City of Ocala City Hall on 10/23/19 to collect the data.

I completed an investigative subpoena request to obtain account and transaction details for the Fifth Third Bank account in which the funds were wire transferred to. I forwarded this subpoena request to the State Attorneys' Office for approval.

On 10/23/19, at approximately 1300 hrs., I responded to the City of Ocala City Hall and made contact with Ramos. Ramos advised to have obtained the IP addresses captured from the suspects email transmissions with [REDACTED]. Ramos provided me with an Excel file (containing the IP addresses used), a copy of a voided check (that was used to confirm the changed accounts routing number), the EFT form forwarded via email to [REDACTED] and a "Whois" document identifying the domain owner of bsheaffer@ausleyconstructions.com as being registered with PublicDomainRegistry.com. Per this document the domain was created 09/01/19. Ramos advised to have reviewed the digital picture of the check provided by the suspect(s) for "meta data" and none was found. I later uploaded the documents provided by Ramos, as PDF files, into electronic CIS case file for this incident. I forwarded a CD containing the Excel file provided by Ramos to evidence.

After speaking with Ramos we walked to the office of the City of Ocala's Director of Finance Emory Roberts. I introduced myself to Emory and we further discussed the circumstances of this



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case. I advised Roberts I would like to speak with [REDACTED] if she was available. Roberts advised [REDACTED] was no longer employed with the city. Ramos and Roberts both advised that it was unknown how the suspects gained knowledge of the City Of Ocala's relationship with Ausley Construction or the vender number provided on the EFT form. Roberts advised to have learned that the City of Naples had fallen victim to a scheme that was almost identical to this one.

I conducted online research and located articles dated August 2019 documenting that The City Of Naples was the victim of a "Spear Phishing" scheme which defrauded them of \$700,000. The scheme involved a fraudulent email posing as a construction group that requested their routing number be changed for future payment. I noted the method of operation of this scheme to be identical to this incident. I will look further into this incident by contacting detectives at the Naples Police Department to determine if the incidents are related.

I received the approved investigative subpoena for Fifth Third Bank back from the State Attorney's Office and made arrangements to have it forwarded to their legal department via certified mail.

As typed by Detective S. Rowe

10/24/19