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PRESS RELEASE

CITY OF ALAMOGORDO

City of Alamogordo

City Working with Law Enforcement & State Agencies as Victim of Email Fraud

Alamogordo, NM   Friday, July 13, 2018   Late afternoon on Thursday, July 12, 2018 it was discovered by City Administration that the City Finance Department had fallen victim to fraudulent emails. Staff were mislead by official looking emails from CES (a cooperative buying group), to make changes to account information, that led to payments being redirected to a vendor who was not who they claimed to be.

"The City has taken appropriate action with the involved personnel, and is working with the Alamogordo Police Department, FBI, the City's insurance company (New Mexico Municipal League), the New Mexico State Auditor and the City's outside auditor, Hinkle & Landers, to remedy this situation as quickly as possible", said City Manager Maggie Paluch. "Current City services will not be impacted and the budget is secure."

By the end of the day the City will also be working with the IRS and will take every possible action to recover the inappropriately redirected funds. "We take the use and protection of tax payer money very seriously and will take every possible action, with every agency available to recover the misdirected funds and ensure guilty parties are prosecuted to the fullest extent of the law", said City Attorney Petria Schreiber. "We will not rest until every avenue is exhausted." City Administration's full and undivided attention is focused on this matter and a complete audit and review of the finance departments actions is being conducted.

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