

June 30, 2020

Dear Representative Francis,

Thank you for bringing Ms. Craine's email to the Republican members of the State Legislature to the attention of The Adjutant General's Department.

The accusations levied by Ms. Craine are serious and deserve investigation. Therefore, Major General Weishaar on 29 June 2020, requested a third party review of these accusations through the Governor's office. In the interim please accept these facts related to Ms. Craine's employment and statements detailed in her email.

Ms. Craine began employment with the Adjutant General's Department on January 17, 2020, as the Fiscal & Grants Management Branch Director. During her employment she worked under the supervision of Michael E. Neth, State Comptroller, with oversight by Deputy Director of Emergency Management, Angee Morgan. Ms. Craine was terminated during her probationary period on June 23, 2020, by the State Comptroller for numerous infractions to include insubordination, disclosure of personal information, and unauthorized agency purchases.

In the early stages of the COVID-19 pandemic, MG Tafanelli requested a temporary pay increase for five exempt employees based on increased workload and hours. This request was approved by Governor Kelly and the temporary pay increase started 22 March, 2020. These temporary pay raises equate to 26 hours of overtime per pay period. The staff listed below received this temporary pay increase based on their positions and work requirements associated with the prolonged COVID-19 response.

- a. Angee Morgan, Deputy Director of Emergency Management
- b. Jonathan York, Response & Recovery Branch Director
- c. Bryan Murdie, Planning & Mitigation Branch Director
- d. Jane Welch, Director of Public Affairs; and
- e. Michael Neth, State Comptroller

These salaried positions are essential to the operation of the State Emergency Operations Center (SEOC) Policy Group and devote numerous hours in support of disaster response and recovery operations. Below are the average number of overtime hours worked since the activation of the SEOC in March.

- a. Angee Morgan – 66 overtime hours/pay period
- b. Jonathan York – 64 overtime hours/pay period
- c. Bryan Murdie – 55 overtime hours/pay period
- d. Jane Welch – 42 overtime hours/pay period
- e. Michael Neth – 30 overtime hours/pay period

Ms. Terri Ploger-McCool was retroactively included to the list of approved temporary pay raises. She was initially omitted due to an administrative oversight while identifying the agency's salaried employees. Ms. Ploger-McCool initially supported the SEOC remotely to accommodate the agency's established social

distancing practices which contributed to the oversight. This issue was fortunately highlighted and addressed after Ms. Craine inappropriately disclosed employee pay information with division staff. This disclosure of personnel information is among the reasons for Ms. Craine's dismissal.

All salaried employees support the SEOC outside of normal business hours to include weekends contrary to the claim made by Ms. Craine and supported by agency payroll records.

The accusation that misinformation was provided to stakeholders about FEMA Public Assistance expense eligibility is false. Mr. Neth provided no information that contradicts federally dictated guidance regarding the documentation and reimbursement of workforce costs for federal reimbursement under the Stafford Act.

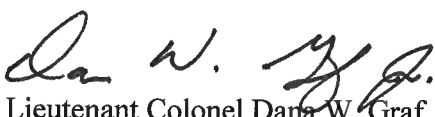
Food/catering services are required during SEOC activations to support operational requirements. These expenses are considered emergency protective measures and eligible for reimbursement under the Stafford Act. In the case of the COVID-19 response, these catering services were essential to limiting exposure of SEOC personnel and ensuring the SEOC remains fully operational. The catering contract for the Topeka Country Club was advocated for and facilitated by Ms. Craine in support of SEOC operations.

Interns working in the SEOC are frequently utilized to support logistical tasks that do not require extensive training in SEOC operations. Typical logistical tasks include picking up and delivering supplies and/or equipment. As an example, Deputy Director, Ms. Angee Morgan, routinely supports SEOC operations remotely during weekends and after normal operating hours from an off-site office in Topeka. An equipment delivery was made by an intern to support remote operational needs for Ms. Morgan. The same intern took it upon them self to deliver SEOC catered food to Ms. Morgan while she was working remotely. At no time did Ms. Morgan abuse her authority and direct staff to support personal errands.

Due to COVID-19, there was an immediate need to support remote telework operations of SEOC personnel and new laptops and other equipment were requisitioned. This was to support the implementation of social distancing practices and safeguard staff and operations. In this effort, the Kansas Division of Emergency Management (KDEM) reduced the presence of physical staff by nearly half. This early decision was supported by CDC and Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE) guidance. Equipment purchased included laptops to support remote operations, iPads for mobile field operations, iPhones for additional operational staff, and other miscellaneous equipment such as Apple AirPods. These items were purchased specifically for teleconferences and to meet hands-free travel policies and are eligible for reimbursement under the Stafford Act. All equipment is inventoried and issued to designated staff based on operational need. No equipment is or has been "gifted" to staff.

All these statements can be fully corroborated by KDEM through documentation and records. If you have any additional questions related to this matter please feel free to contact my office directly at 785-646-0001.

Respectfully,



Lieutenant Colonel Dana W. Graf
Executive Officer to The Adjutant General