



SOLANO COUNTY

AUDITOR-CONTROLLER'S OFFICE

To: Board of Supervisors
From: Phyllis Taynton, CPA, Auditor-Controller
Date: February 21, 2020
Subject: Significant Issues Update

Whistleblower Program Update, July 1, 2019 – December 31, 2019

The County Auditor-Controller's Internal Audit Division (Division) administers the County's Whistleblower Program (Program). The Program includes a special hotline number (866) 384-TIPS and a website for submission of complaints. The complaints received were reviewed by the Audit Division in cooperation with Appointed and Elected Department Heads and the County Administrator as deemed appropriate.

From July 1, 2019 through December 31, 2019, the Division received 17 complaints of perceived incidence of fraud, waste, and abuse, or violations of County policy or law through the Whistleblower Program. Of the 17 complaints, 7 were determined not to be County Whistleblower matters because the allegation was not within the scope of the County's Whistleblower Program. As a result, there were 10 cases reviewed this period.

In addition to the 10 new complaints, there were 2 complaints from our last report still under review. This brought the total caseload to 12.

The 12 Whistleblower complaints reviewed are summarized by category as follows:

- 3 Violations of law and/or County policy
- 8 Welfare fraud
- 1 Management conduct

Of the 12 complaints:

- 5 Were determined to not have merit
- 3 Related to welfare fraud remain open with an investigation in progress
- 4 Were referred to appropriate agencies and were closed

The Whistleblower Program continues to serve as a successful tool to aide in the identification of County-related matters of potential fraud, waste, and abuse. The Program looks at and addresses controls and promotes accountability and oversight throughout the County by providing a process for employees and County residents to report perceived incidence of fraud, waste, and abuse in policy and practice.

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