



February 24, 2007

Accountant gets 4 years for embezzlement

Parks employee says she became addicted to the thefts, which reached \$350,000

By Jon Murray

jon.murray@indystar.com

February 24, 2007

The low-paid Indy Parks employee began stealing from city coffers to help family members with living expenses.

But as more than six years passed, Kenya Miles-Hill testified Friday, she became addicted. Nobody noticed the transactions, so she thought nobody cared.

Marion Superior Court Judge Sheila A. Carlisle said she was wrong, calling the embezzlement -- one of the metro area's largest in recent years -- a huge betrayal of the public's trust.

She sentenced Miles-Hill, 34, to four years of incarceration and ordered her to repay, week by week, as much as possible of the \$350,000 she stole. The first two years of her sentence will be in prison, and the last two in community corrections. She also received two years on probation.

The woman, paid \$25,000 a year for her accounting job before her arrest in July, pleaded guilty to theft, a Class C felony.

Miles-Hill also admitted felony welfare fraud in a separate case in which she, her husband, Andre Hill, 36, and other family members were accused of obtaining improper Indianapolis Housing Authority subsidies. Carlisle gave her a two-year sentence that will overlap with the other case.

Miles-Hill's attorney, Gregg Stark, told the judge that Indy Parks' lax oversight of Miles-Hill was "nothing short of an utter embarrassment."

Beginning in December 1999, she made twice-monthly transfers ranging from \$400 to \$2,000 to credit and debit cards opened in her name.

She was responsible for issuing electronic refunds to parks customers for canceled deposits and other fees, and she used the same process to pay herself.

The city ceased that practice after Miles-Hill's arrest, a city attorney said last year.

Her government retirement account, containing \$6,550, will be turned over to the city. She also owes \$26,887 to the housing authority, though Carlisle said it was unlikely she would repay everything.