

To whom it may concern;

My name is Felix M Olmedocruz. I have lived in Augusta for 30 years. I am a medically retired disable Iraq war veteran. My Wife is an active US Army female Soldier. On 7th November 2024 at around 12:40pm. I arrived at the Augusta Tax Commissioner office located at 535 telfair St to pay my property taxes. I carried in with me \$13,000 even in 3 sealed envelopes. When my number was called I approached window # 5 where I was supposed to be assisted by the tax cashier (first name Kelly). Using the computer kelly helped me figure out the total property taxes i owed \$12,345.14. I then proceeded to separate the \$100's, 50's, 20's and 10's bills to count the money one last time. Not finished counting the money Kelly grabbed all the \$100's, 50's and \$20's bills and headed to a dark back room where she said she was going to use a money counting machine. She said it was faster that way to count the money. She left the \$10 bills stack with me at the window. I had no reason to refute thinking she is a trusted public servant even though Her actions didn't coincide with tax commissioner office tax cashier established cash collection procedures. I found out later that there was no surveillance camera in that dark room. When Kelly came back to the window she said she had \$11,350.00 that I owe her another \$995.14. I proceeded to count \$1,000 from the stack of tens she left behind and gave it to her. Ones Kelly finished the transaction I noticed that out of the \$13,000.00 even, I only had \$154.86 left and was missing exactly \$500. Kelly and a tax cashier supervisor (Faith) counted and recounted the cash hinting I did not have come in with \$13,000. I reported it to the finance director Mr. Ryan Barbin. I asked him if there are Cameras in the little dark room he said no. I asked him if there is a procedure to follow when incidents like this happen (Money missing) he said no that there is no procedure to follow because it has never happened before. I said there has to be a process to follow to officially record the incident he said there is none and at my insistence he simply gave me a blank piece of copier paper from the printing machine explaining the incident in 3 1/2 sentences. Instead of empathizing for the humiliation and frustration of the innocent citizen they brushed it up like \$500 wasn't missing.

I then proceeded to call the Marshall's office to officially denounce and report the missing \$500 Dollars. 2 officers showed (officer Margis-Rhodes and officer canavan) they "helped" me by retracing my steps to my vehicle and questioned me for about 2 hours and 45 minutes. I guess to see if I was lying then finally I guess sensing I was telling the truth they let me go home. During that whole time I was told by the police officers that the tax commissioner's leadership were

reviewing the various surveillance cameras and conducting their own investigation. Questioning Kelly and another lady involved counting the money tax cashier supervisor named Faith. It is 21st November 2024 and up until now noone from the tax commissioner's office have reached out to me to inquire or notify me of the outcome of my missing \$500.00 investigation. I am submitting this incident to you in hopes the tax commissioner or whomever was his representative at the moment will contact me to shed light into if there was any wrong doing by their employees or of the conclusion of their investigation in general. Shortly while I was e-mailing this statement. A person whom named herself Ashley called me. Stating she was representative of the tax commissioner. I asked her if she consented to the call being recorded she replied "no" I then asked her what is her last name she replied she wont give that information over the phone and that was the end of our conversation. My mind is at ease my conscience is clear. because I am not lying, stealing, cheating or have anything to hide, i am not swindling anybody (specially not the tax commissioner office). My plan when I entered that office was simple pay my property tax get out and continue working hard to be able to put together next year's property taxes money. I am trying to build a legacy for my family. We need to regain trust in our local government. Again because my conscience is clear I will agree to submit to a polygraph or lie detector. During this veterans day, thanksgiving day and Christmases season I ask anyone to please take cards in this matter and help me get to the truth of this incident to clear my name.

Very Respectfully.

Felix M. Olmedocruz

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