

# Edit Referral

## H-20-339 Referral Information

**Hotline ID:** H-20-339

**Date of Submission:** 11/25/2020

**Entity Type:** Local

**Entity Category Type:** City/Town

**Entity:** Tenino, City of

**Sub Entity Name:**

**Category:** Fraud

**1-2 sentence description of concern:** The city is wrongly taking storm utility funds during LID foreclosures

**Report Issued:** No

**Reporting Type:** Hotline Letter

**Report Number:**

**Investigation Contracted:** No

**Contract Number:**

**Contract Name:**

**Billing Time Code:**

**Costs:**

**Public Records Request:** Yes

**Flag For Annual Report:** No

**Substantiated:** No

**ARRA:** No

**Action:** Referred to Audit Team - Consider Next Audit

**Audit Team:** Olympia

**Audit Team Contact:** bristolb@sao.wa.gov

**cc:** KATIE Gravatt (gravattk@sao.wa.gov)

**Referral Date:** 11/30/2020

**Action Taken:** No

**Response Date:**

**Report Date:**

**Follow Up Date:**

**Date Closed:** 1/7/2025

## Edit Referral

### H-20-339 Contact Information

**Hotline ID:** H-20-339

**Date of Submission:** 11/25/2020

**Submission Method:** Web

**Submission Type:** Citizen

**Staff:**

**Author(Last, First):** Brown , Shaun

**Address:** 187 Hodgden St N

**City:** Tenino

**State:** WA **Zip:** 98589

**Home Phone:**

**Work Phone:**

**Mobile Phone:** 360-280-6606

**Email:** mikeandshaun@me.com

**Can Contact:** Yes

**Contact** Email

**Preference:** Regular Mail

**Anonymous:** No

**Waived Confidentiality:** No

# Edit Referral

## H-20-339 Referral Details

**Hotline ID:** H-20-339

**What state or local organization is involved?**

**Please identify the specific concerns you are hoping the audit will address.**

The city is wrongly taking storm utility funds during LID foreclosures

**Please provide a detailed description of the assertion or outstanding achievement, including who, when, where, what, how and how much.**

April 14, 2020, Mr. Millard got Council's approval to pay \$23,000 of contractor bills related to the WMCA's 50th Anniversary Convention. (WMCA's treasurer had Covid and the bills needed to be paid asap). Millard said the WMCA would pay back the City when the Clerk came back to work. Soon that bill increased to over \$270,000 with no receipts or loan documents or EFT transfer documents in the Council's meeting packets. Reviewing the minutes of all the meetings since April 14, 2020, there still are not relating documents listed. I filed a RFI for the "loan documents" and was told there was not one. Through an email I mentioned the ballon payments and the line item in the budget summary under "Centralized/General Services of ( 518 63 00 01) "WMCA 50th Anniversary Loan. Mr. Millard said he was a victim of a "Social Engineering Scam". The State Patrol was investigating as well as the Auditor's office and the Mayor and Council knew what had happened. He also claimed the FBI was investigating. I believe that the Council misused the City's funds in paying these bills - even the original \$23,000 was not a proper use of public funds. I have placed a call into the State Patrol's " Government and Media relations" office but have not heard back. I believe the Mayor and the City Clerk are not telling the whole truth.

**How did this issue come to your attention?**

Reading the budget, the Budget Summary and talking to Council members.

**What employee(s), contractors, etc., were involved in the assertion or achievement?  
Please include employee titles if possible.**

Wayne Fournier, Tenino Mayor, John Millard, Tenino Clerk Treasurer.

**Please provide the names of any witnesses to the assertion or achievement, if possible.**

Mayor Fournier, Clerk Millard, Linda Gotovac, Council; Jason Lawton, Council, Dave Waterson, Council, Rachel Davidson, Council, John O'Callahan, Council and Ronna Barnes, Council Secretary.

**Please provide any additional details or comments that would help us understand your assertion or achievement.**

# Edit Referral

H-20-339  
Activity  
Log  
Hotline ID: H-20-339

Entry Date ▼	Log Entry
01/07/2025	Referral updated by 'JEANA Gillis (gillisj)'.
01/07/2025	Emailed citizen hotline letter with results. See supporting documents tab. Ready to close. --carrelll
11/30/2023	Reached out to citizen to inform we expect to conduct this audit in early 2024. --sarah950
02/16/2022	Emailed citizen to let them know our schedule changed and that we now expect to conduct this work by the end of 2022. --carrelll
02/16/2022	Received response from citizen. --carrelll
12/30/2021	Referral updated by 'JEANA Gillis (gillisj)'.
12/15/2021	Referral updated by 'JEANA Gillis (gillisj)'.
12/04/2020	Citizen called our office back and I informed them if any on the hotline information is related to the current investigation, it will be reviewed by our office and they would be updated at the conclusion. Otherwise we will give them a call at the next audit scheduled for late 2021. --justint
12/03/2020	Called the Citizen and left them a voicemail to inform them if any on the hotline information is related to the current investigation, it will be reviewed by our office and they would be updated at the conclusion. Otherwise we will give them a call at the next audit scheduled for late 2021. --justint
11/30/2020	Referral updated by 'JEANA Gillis (gillisj)'.
11/30/2020	Task assigned to 'bristolb@sao.wa.gov'. Team notification email sent to: bristolb@sao.wa.gov,gravattk@sao.wa.gov
11/30/2020	Referral updated by 'JEANA Gillis (gillisj)'. Action changed from (not set) to Referred to Audit Team - Consider Next Audit.

**From:** [Mike Brown](#)  
**To:** [Carrell, Lisa \(SAO\)](#)  
**Subject:** Re: Hotline Submission Follow-Up  
**Date:** Wednesday, February 16, 2022 7:39:51 PM  
**Attachments:** [image001.png](#)

---

External Email

Hi Lisa,  
Thank you for keeping me up to date on your investigation. I have read the Auditor's report published a few weeks ago, but I was waiting for the final.

Please keep me updated as you finish all of your research.

Thank you,  
Shaun Brown

Sent from my iPad

On Feb 16, 2022, at 8:35 AM, Carrell, Lisa (SAO) <[carrelll@sao.wa.gov](mailto:carrelll@sao.wa.gov)> wrote:

Dear Shaun Brown,

Thank you again for your hotline submission regarding the City of Tenino. I wanted to reach out because our schedule has changed. We originally communicated with you that we expected to conduct our audit of the City by the end of 2021. That has changed and we are now scheduled to conduct our audit in late 2022. At that time, we will consider the information you have provided during our audit planning procedures. If you have any additional information you would like to share, please feel free to send it to my email.

Thank you.



Lisa Carrell, CPA  
Audit Manager, Team Olympia  
[Office of the Washington State Auditor](#)  
(564) 999-0882 | Pronouns: She, Her, Hers  
Keeping Washington rooted in #GoodGovernment since 1889:  
[sao.wa.gov/rooted](http://sao.wa.gov/rooted)

**From:** [Carrell, Lisa \(SAO\)](#)  
**To:** ["mikeandshaun@me.com"](mailto:mikeandshaun@me.com)  
**Subject:** Hotline Results - H-20-339  
**Date:** Tuesday, January 7, 2025 10:54:00 AM  
**Attachments:** [Citizen Hotline Letter - H-20-339.pdf](#)  
[image001.png](#)

---

Dear Shaun Brown,

Please see the attached letter in response to your citizen hotline submission. Please let me know if you have any questions.

Thank you.



**Lisa Carrell, CPA**  
Team Olympia Local Audit Manager  
Statewide Program Manager for Transits, TBDs and RTPOs  
(564) 999-0882 | [Office of the Washington State Auditor](#) | Pronouns: She,  
Her, Hers



**Office of the Washington State Auditor  
Pat McCarthy**

January 7, 2025

Shaun Brown  
187 Hodgden St N  
Tenino, WA 98589

Dear Shaun Brown:

Thank you for contacting the State Auditor's Office Citizen Hotline with your concerns regarding the City of Tenino.

We recently examined your concerns as part of our audit of the City and would like to share the results with you.

You were concerned the City's restricted funds were being used for unallowable purpose related to payments for the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Convention for the Washington Municipal Clerks Association (WMCA).

During our audit of this area, we reviewed the City's internal transfers to determine whether restricted funds were allowed to be transferred and evaluated for additional charges to the WMCA. Our audit did not find the City used any restricted funds for payments to WMCA and it did not have any additional payments to WMCA other than those previously identified and reported on in our prior Fraud Investigation report, issued January 13, 2022.

Thank you for taking the time to submit your concerns. If you have any questions, please contact me at (564) 999-0882.

Sincerely,

Lisa Carrell, CPA, Program Manager,  
Team Olympia

H-20-339

**From:** [Carrell, Lisa \(SAO\)](#)  
**To:** [mikeandshaun@me.com](mailto:mikeandshaun@me.com)  
**Subject:** Hotline Submission Follow-Up  
**Date:** Wednesday, February 16, 2022 8:35:00 AM  
**Attachments:** [image001.png](#)

---

Dear Shaun Brown,

Thank you again for your hotline submission regarding the City of Tenino. I wanted to reach out because our schedule has changed. We originally communicated with you that we expected to conduct our audit of the City by the end of 2021. That has changed and we are now scheduled to conduct our audit in late 2022. At that time, we will consider the information you have provided during our audit planning procedures. If you have any additional information you would like to share, please feel free to send it to my email.

Thank you.



Lisa Carrell, CPA  
Audit Manager, Team Olympia  
[Office of the Washington State Auditor](#)  
(564) 999-0882 | Pronouns: She, Her, Hers  
Keeping Washington rooted in #GoodGovernment since 1889:  
[sao.wa.gov/rooted](https://sao.wa.gov/rooted)