



# UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL

**CASE #: 21INV00469**

**CROSS REFERENCE #:**

**TITLE:** (b)(6); (b)(7)(C)

**USPS**

**EMPLOYEE\_ ERIE\_16515**

**CASE AGENT (if different from prepared by):**

## CLOSING MEMORANDUM

This investigation was initiated based on a Postal Service employee's allegations of voter fraud in a video released by James O'Keefe and Project Veritas. In the video, the employee alleges that he overheard a Postmaster and a Supervisor discussing the backdating ballots so that ballots received on November 4, 2020, would appear to have been received on November 3, 2020. Pennsylvania law requires that ballots be postmarked no later than 8 p.m. on November 3, 2020 in order to be counted.

The investigation determined that (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) witnessed a conversation between his Postmaster and another Supervisor. (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) assumed that this discussion was related to illegally backdating ballots that arrived after the November 3<sup>rd</sup> deadline.

To substantiate (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) allegations, OIG Special Agents interviewed (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) on two occasions. During the second interview, (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) revised his initial claims, eventually stating that he had not heard a conversation about ballots at all – rather he saw the Postmaster and Supervisor having a discussion and assumed it was about fraudulent ballot backdating. (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) acknowledged that he had no evidence of any backdated presidential ballots and could not recall any specific words said by the Postmaster or Supervisor.

Near the end of the interview, (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) revealed that he had covertly recorded the interview with OIG Special Agents without their consent in violation of Employee and Labor Relations Manual Section 667.21.

On December 26, 2020, (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) was issued a (b)(6); (b)(7)(C)

This case will be closed.

**PREPARED BY: SA** (b)(6); (b)(7)(C)

**DATE: 02/26/2021**

**From:** (b)(6); (b)(7)(C)  
**Sent:** Mon, 8 Feb 2021 19:03:12 +0000  
**To:** (b)(6); (b)(7)(C)  
(b)(6); (b)(7)(C)  
**Cc:** (b)(6); (b)(7)(C)  
**Subject:** Report of Investigation - (b)(6); (b)(7)(C)

All,

The U.S. Postal Service, Office of Inspector General (OIG), Office of Investigations (OI) Pittsburgh, PA Office, recently completed an investigation into the conduct of (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) Erie, PA. Attached is the report of investigation (ROI) for your review.

Thank you.



**UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE  
OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL**  
EASTERN AREA FIELD OFFICE  
1000 WEST VALLEY ROAD ROOM 167  
SOUTHEASTERN, PA 19399-9998

**CASE #: 21INV00469**

**CROSS REFERENCE #:**

**TITLE:** (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) **USPS**  
**EMPLOYEE\_ERIE\_16515**

**CASE AGENT (if different from prepared by):**

**REPORT OF INVESTIGATION**

**PERIOD COVERED: FROM** November 6, 2020 **TO** November 16, 2020

**STATUS OF CASE: Referred to USPS**

**JOINT AGENCIES:**  
NONE

**DISTRIBUTION:**

(b)(6); (b)(7)(C) A/DISTRICT MANAGER, WESTERN PA DISTRICT  
(b)(6); (b)(7)(C) POSTMASTER, ERIE, PA POST OFFICE  
(b)(6); (b)(7)(C) WESTERN PA DISTRICT  
(b)(6); (b)(7)(C) HUMAN RESOURCES, WESTERN PA DISTRICT  
(b)(6); (b)(7)(C) LABOR RELATIONS, WESTERN PA DISTRICT  
(b)(6); (b)(7)(C) LABOR RELATIONS, EASTERN AREA  
(b)(6); (b)(7)(C) EASTERN AREA  
(b)(6); (b)(7)(C) HUMAN RESOURCES, EASTERN AREA  
(b)(6); (b)(7)(C) EASTERN AREA

**PREPARED BY: SA** (b)(6); (b)(7)(C)

**DATE: 2/3/2021**

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## I. PREDICATION

This investigation was initiated based on a Postal Service employee's allegations of voter fraud in a video released by James O'Keefe and Project Veritas. In the video, the employee alleges that he overheard a Postmaster and a Supervisor discussing the backdating ballots so that ballots received on November 4, 2020, would appear to have been received on November 3, 2020. Pennsylvania law requires that ballots be postmarked no later than 8 p.m. on November 3, 2020 in order to be counted.

Based on this information, an investigation was opened.

## II. SYNOPSIS

**[Results]** The investigation determined that (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) witnessed a conversation between his Postmaster and another Supervisor. (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) assumed that this discussion was related to illegally backdating ballots that arrived after the November 3<sup>rd</sup> deadline.

To substantiate (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) allegations, OIG Special Agents re-interviewed (b)(6); (b)(7)(C). During this interview, (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) revised his claims, eventually stating that he had not heard a conversation about ballots at all – rather he saw the Postmaster and Supervisor having a discussion and assumed it was about fraudulent ballot backdating. (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) acknowledged that he had no evidence of any backdated presidential ballots and could not recall any specific words said by the Postmaster or Supervisor.

Near the end of the interview, (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) revealed that he had covertly recorded the interview with OIG Special Agents without their consent in violation of Employee and Labor Relations Manual Section 667.21.

**[Status]** This investigation is closed pending any administrative action deemed appropriate by Postal Service management with regard to (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) nonconsensual recording.

## III. BACKGROUND/SUBJECT IDENTIFICATION

At the time of this investigation, (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) was a Postal Service employee, (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) at the Erie Post Office.

(b)(6); (b)(7)(C) Postal Service employee identification number is (b)(6); (b)(7)(C). The Erie Post Office is located in Erie County.

#### IV. DETAILS

On November 5, 2020, James O'Keefe and Project Veritas released a video of Postal Service (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) alleging that the Erie, Pennsylvania Post Office was backdating presidential election ballots. On November 6, 2020, OIG Special Agents traveled to Erie, Pennsylvania, to investigate these allegations.

In an initial interview on November 6, 2020, (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) told OIG Special Agents that he overheard the Postmaster having a conversation with a Supervisor on November 5, 2020. The conversation allegedly involved backdating ballots received on November 4, 2020, to make them appear to have been received on November 3, 2020. According to (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) he heard the Postmaster say all the ballots received on the November 4, 2020 were postmarked November 3, 2020, except one was postmarked November 4, 2020. (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) recalled the Postmaster stating they "messed up" on the ballot marked November 4, 2020. (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) stated the Postmaster was telling the Supervisor to make sure the ballots were correct, which (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) interpreted as a command to postmark late ballots as received on November 3, 2020 so they would be counted under Pennsylvania state law.

Later that day, OIG Special Agents interviewed the Postmaster and Supervisor described in (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) allegation, along with the USPS Sales, Service, & Distribution Associate who controlled the physical postmarking stamps at the Erie, Pennsylvania Post Office. None of the individuals interviewed were aware of any evidence of any backdated presidential election ballots in the Erie, Pennsylvania Post Office.

On November 9, 2020, OIG Special Agents interviewed (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) in the Erie, Pennsylvania Post Office located at 2108 E 38<sup>th</sup> Street, Erie, PA 16515. OIG Special Agents supplied (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) with the *Garrity Warning: Acknowledgment of Rights* form and informed (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) he was not under arrest today, was free to answer or not answer questions, and could stop the interview at any time. Agents explained the Acknowledgment of Rights form and confirmed that (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) understood those rights.

During the course of this interview, (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) revised his claims, eventually stating he had not heard a conversation about ballots at all – rather he saw the Postmaster and the Supervisor having a discussion and assumed it was about backdating ballots. (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) acknowledged he had no evidence of any backdated presidential ballots and could not recall any specific words said by the Postmaster or Supervisor. (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) then completed a signed statement.

During the interview, (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) informed the agents he had been covertly recording the interview via his cellular telephone. (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) stated he had been using a voice



recorder application on his cellular telephone all day in case someone harassed him or “something happened.” One OIG Special Agent stated that he “[did not] mind that we’re being recorded” and continued the interview for approximately eight minutes before (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) voluntarily terminated the recording for the remainder of the interview. Agents informed (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) the audio of the interview was part of a federal investigation and that OIG management would be informed of the recording.

On November 16, 2020, OIG Special Agents met with an Erie County Election Supervisor at the Erie County Courthouse, room 112, located at 140 West Sixth Street, Erie, Pennsylvania 16501 to corroborate (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) allegations. OIG Special Agents physically reviewed the ballots received by the Erie, PA Post Office that were postmarked November 3, 2020 and later. Both the interview of the Erie County Election Supervisor and the physical examination of ballots produced no evidence of any backdated presidential election ballots at the Erie, PA Post Office.