



Controller of Cumberland County
ONE COURTHOUSE SQUARE, ROOM 207 • CARLISLE, PA 17013

Alfred J. Whitcomb, Controller
awhitcomb@ccpa.net

PRESS RELEASE

January 18, 2019
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT: Al Whitcomb, Controller
717.240.6185
khimes@ccpa.net

Cumberland County's Fraud Hotline Contributes to Efficient and Accountable Government

Carlisle, PA – The Cumberland County Controllers office today reported that its Cumberland County Fraud and Abuse Hotline netted twenty tips of fraud and abuse reported by county employees and outside parties in 2018. Marking 15 years in operation, the hotline continues to contribute to a more cost efficient and accountable county government for the taxpayers.

Since 2003, the hotline has received 185 tips saving county taxpayers untold dollars over the years.

“The vast majority of the tips reported are the receipt of public assistance and other human service benefits by allegedly ineligible recipients,” said County Controller, Al Whitcomb. “These allegations are investigated internally for county administered programs. For County Assistance Office programs, these tips are reported to them as well as any existing statewide tip-line or Inspector General.”

In order to help individuals feel comfortable reporting, the Hotline does not require those reporting tips to disclose their identity. Additionally, the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania's Whistleblower Law protects employees who report a violation, or suspected violation, of laws in prescribed situations.

Several tips were forwarded to the Cumberland County District Attorney in 2018. Other tips, of lesser gravity, after data gathering, were forwarded to the county administration for appropriate action, as warranted. Follow-up responses are requested from parties that are sent tips for action.

Whitcomb credits the responsiveness of the Cumberland County District Attorney, Commissioners Office, and the county senior management team for timely addressing matters received through the Hotline.

“There are a great many conscientious employees working at the county and when they see something that may not be right, they report it,” added Whitcomb.

In the fifteen years of the Cumberland County Fraud and Abuse Hotline's existence, tips received have resulted in a couple of successful criminal prosecutions, several terminations, and multiple administrative actions and policy and internal control improvements.

“Cumberland County government is better today as a result of the hotline’s existence and its deterrence affect”, said Whitcomb.

Individuals, residents/taxpayers, employees and organizations doing business with the county, should report tips at www.ccpa.net, on the Controller’s page, by mail at P.O. Box 1079, Carlisle, PA 17013 or call 717. 240.6192.

###