

NOPD Investigates Theft of Money From Evidence Room

Superintendent promises "thorough and complete investigation"

Thursday, November 13, 2008

New Orleans Police Superintendent Warren Riley has launched an investigation into the disappearance of thousands of dollars in cash from the NOPD property and evidence room.

The cash, nearly \$19,000, was discovered missing when an attorney went to the evidence room to pick it up.

It was part of nearly \$36,000 that was confiscated by police during the arrest of a man on a charge of possession of marijuana.

When attorney Rick Tessier went to pick up his client's money, only about \$16,000 of the original amount was in the bag. The bag had been opened and the remainder was gone.

Tessier had received two court orders from a local judge directing the NOPD to turn over the cash, and he threatened last week to go to court to seek a contempt charge against the police department and Superintendent Riley for failing to abide by the court orders.

Riley now confirms that the money has disappeared and he has opened a criminal investigation. The Superintendent promises that the probe will be "thorough and complete" and he says any employee involved in the disappearance of the money will face "severe consequences."

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