



*City of Boston, Massachusetts*  
*Office of Police Accountability and Transparency*  
**Stephanie Everett, Executive Director**

**CIVILIAN REVIEW BOARD - CASE #36**

**DATE OF INCIDENT:** October 6, 2022

**DATE OF FILING:** March 28, 2022

**PRECINCT:** Downtown Boston (District A-1)

**INVESTIGATOR:** Tastery Reed Jr

**OPAT FILE NUMBER:** 23

**DATE:** August 9, 2022

**SUMMARY OF FACTS**

On April 8th 2022, the Office of Police Accountability and Transparency (OPAT) received a case requesting an investigation of police misconduct regarding the Boston Police Department. The complainant alleged neglect of duty of the handling of his case from Boston Police Detective, Craig Wozniak. The complainant was a victim of fraud, in which they were defrauded of \$52,710.00 out of their bank account with Bank of America. On October 6, 2020, the complainant submitted a police report to the Boston Police Department. The complainant stated that the case was assigned to Detective Craig Wozniak. The complainant states that within the past two years, he has continuously attempted to follow up to receive a status update about his case, and Detective Wozniak has failed to respond to his messages.

**INVESTIGATION:**

On May 16, 2022 at 1:19pm, Investigator Tastery Reed reached out to the complainant by phone to discuss the allegation that was submitted to the Office of Police Accountability and Transparency (OPAT). The complainant stated on September 30, 2020, their business, Wellable LLC, received an email from a vendor, Simple Solutions LLC, which the complainant pays monthly to request a payment to be made. The email included updated banking information where the complainant could send a payment of \$52,710.00 to. The information included a new routing number, account number, and a new address for



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Citibank. The complainant then mentioned that after the money was sent, they reached out to Simple Solutions, LLC to verify if they had received the payment. The complainant found out from the vendor that they had not sent the email or changed their banking information and stated that someone must have hacked the company's account. The complainant stated that because he recognized the fraud happened the same day, they attempted to stop the transaction with their bank, Bank of America who was helpful. The complainant's bank explained to the complainant that they would reach out to the receiving bank, which was Citibank, to stop the transfer. However Citibank never responded to Bank of America about the issue. Bank of America suggested to the complainant to file a police report which they did on October 6, 2020 to Boston Police Department.

The complainant stated that the case was submitted to Boston Detective Wozniak who the complainant would consistently reach out to at least once a week to follow up on for case updates, but received no response back. The complainant stated that he had two goals for this investigation, which were to have his case get the proper attention on it and knowing what rules and violations Boston Police Department violated. The complainant provided supporting evidence of email communications to Investigator Reed to support their case of reaching out to Detective Wozniak. Investigator Reed reviewed the emails and verified that on several occasions the Boston Police Department attempted to provide outside agencies to better assist the complainant with the case. Boston Police told him in quote, "The capabilities of a local police department are extremely limited in cases involving financial fraud."

On May 17, 2022, Investigators Reed and Toney contacted James O' Hara, Financial Investigator of the Office of Attorney General to verify if the case falls under their jurisdiction.

On May 24, 2022 at 10:58AM, Investigator O' Hara sent an email to Investigator Reed confirming that the complainant has been a victim of a Business Email Compromise (BEC) scheme, and recommended that the United States Secret Service would be the best avenue for the complainant to report their case to. Investigator O' Hara also noted that the complainant should have reported immediately to the Secret Service so that the digital evidence of this financial crime could have been collected and that the money could have been "frozen" prior to disbursement. However, because it's been two years, the timing of the investigation by the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) Internet Crimes Division



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(IC3) division is the best source. Investigator Reed called the complainant on the phone to provide an update on the case. The complainant still wanted to know if OPAT would still handle the case.

On June 2, 2022 at 3:01pm, Investigator Reed called the complainant to explain that the next step in the case is to complete the intake form on the FBI's Internet Crimes Bureau site to continue the process. Investigator Reed explained to the complainant that the FBI would be the appropriate agency because they are more suitable to handle these types of fraudulent scams rather than the Boston Police Department.

On June 3, 2022 at 3:01pm, Investigator Reed called the complainant to explain the next steps in the case. Investigator Reed explained to the complainant that they need to reach out to the FBI's Internet Crimes unit (IC3) because of the type of financial fraud crime that has occurred. Investigator Reed also explained to the complainant that the Boston Police Department clarified to them to look into many other agencies that included Senator Warren's office, Office of Attorney General, and the United States Treasury Department, and more. The complainant stated to Investigator Reed that BPD never mentioned the FBI as an agency to reach out to and could not understand why BPD could not send him to the correct agency.

#### **RECOMMENDATIONS:**

Per the Ordinance Establishing an Office creating an Office of Police Accountability and Transparency (the "Ordinance"), one of OPAT's investigatory roles is to review complaints and makes findings (12-6.7(b) regarding allegations of police misconduct of the Boston Police Department's (BPD) sworn and civilian personnel. After a thorough review of the case facts and the Ordinance, it has been determined that this complaint is out of scope for OPAT investigations. The recommended agency that this allegation should be forwarded to is the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) Internet Crimes Bureau.