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**Don Schonhardt**  
Mayor

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**Arrest of Former City Employee**

Hilliard (OH) – Yesterday’s arrest of former City employee Heather Ernst marks the first day that the wheels of justice begin rolling in prosecuting her on eight felony counts for the theft of cash from the City’s two pools over multiple years.

“While this criminal case could take a significant period of time until a final verdict is known, we will not sit idly by doing nothing,” Mayor Donald J. Schonhardt said. “That’s why we filed a civil suit against Ms. Ernst which enables us to request that the Court freeze all of her assets. These assets will be needed to compensate the City for the funds she stole, and to reimburse the City for all costs spent in pursuing restitution.”

On behalf of the City, Law Director Tracy L. Bradford retained the services of Taft, Stettinius and Hollister LLP as special counsel to represent the City in this civil lawsuit.

Please direct any questions on this matter to Anna Subler, Communications Administrator for the City of Hilliard, Ohio at 614.334.2470 or at [asubler@hilliardohio.gov](mailto:asubler@hilliardohio.gov).

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