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3800 Municipal Way  
Hilliard, Ohio 43026  
(P) 614.876.7361  
[www.hilliardohio.gov](http://www.hilliardohio.gov)

**Don Schonhardt**  
Mayor

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**City of Hilliard Media Contact**

Anna Subler  
614-334-2470  
[asubler@hilliardohio.gov](mailto:asubler@hilliardohio.gov)

**City of Hilliard Investigating Potential Theft of City Funds**

Hilliard (OH) - The Hilliard Division of Police and the State of Ohio's Auditor's Office are jointly investigating an apparent theft of cash from the City's two aquatic facilities.

A recent preliminary investigation by Hilliard police led it to believe that not all daily cash proceeds from the City's two pools were properly accounted for in deposits made by the Department of Recreation and Parks.

The Hilliard Division of Police contacted the State Auditor's Office and requested that it bring in forensic accountants to assist in the investigation.

To ensure that all City funds are properly documented and accounted for, the City is reviewing best practices with plans to execute a new city-wide 'cash-less' system after the first of the year. Mayor Don Schonhardt stated, "We are undertaking every step to determine the loss of funds and to hold accountable the person, or persons, that betrayed the public trust and took what was not theirs to take."

In addition, members of City Council have requested that the State Auditor's Office conduct a comprehensive review of all internal financial controls and procedures to ensure the full accountability of all public dollars in every City department.

The City will host a press conference at Hilliard City Hall – City Council Chambers – 3800 Municipal Way, Hilliard, OH 43026 at 2 p.m. TODAY to answer questions regarding this investigation.

As this is an on-going investigation, no further information can be released at this time pending the outcome of the criminal investigation.

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