

KNOX COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT

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SHERIFF DAVID L. CLAGUE

PRESS RELEASE

October 31, 2012

3:30 PM

Knox County Sheriff's Department Investigators have been conducting an investigation of missing funds from the Knox County Sheriff's Department Auxiliary Unit. The Auxiliary Unit is a volunteer group, unpaid who assist the Sheriff's Department upon request. As a result of the investigation, a search warrant and arrest warrant was obtained from a Knox County Judge.

James H. NELSON has been the Chief of the Knox County Auxiliary Unit and after fulfilling his term, stepped down from the position. For the next three months, NELSON failed to show for the regular scheduled monthly meetings. Since NELSON's absence from the meetings, no financial reports were available. After several requests were made to NELSON to turn over the reports, Sheriff's Deputies went and recovered the reports.

On examining the books, checks and check stubs were found missing. Investigators were able to determine checks had been written by NELSON for items such as a computer, home office supplies, personal vehicle repairs and equipment for a demolition vehicle owned and operated by NELSON. Total amount used by NELSON being approx. \$3,300.00. At no time did any Auxiliary personnel give NELSON the authority to write checks for his personal gain.

Today, October 31, 2012, NELSON was arrested on the Knox County at 7:30 AM at the Sheriff's Department.



NELSON, James H., DOB 07/23/71 of RR Gilson, Illinois is charged with:

- Official Misconduct
- Theft over \$300

Bond is set at \$10,000.00. NELSON is currently incarcerated awaiting court appearance.

The Auxiliary Unit is funded strictly by donations and is **not** funded nor supplemented by the Knox County Sheriff's Department budget. The investigation continues.