



**UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE
OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL**

1735 NORTH LYNN STREET
SUITE 10000
ARLINGTON, VA 22209-2020

CASE #: 21INV00707

CROSS REFERENCE #:

TITLE: (b)(6); (b)(7)(C)

(b)(6); USPS

EMPLOYEE_WATERTOWN_53098

CASE AGENT (if different from prepared by): N/A

CASE SUMMARY REPORT

PERIOD COVERED: FROM NOVEMBER 9, 2020 TO DECEMBER 9, 2020

STATUS OF CASE: CLOSED INVESTIGATION

SUMMARY OF INVESTIGATIVE ACTIVITY:

On November 9, 2020, the U.S. Postal Service, Office of Inspector General (USPS OIG) received information regarding an online post on 4chan.org, an Internet image-based bulletin board where comments are posted anonymously, with the subject line, "WI USPS lied about 'finding' ballots – Anonymous". The post described "blowing the whistle" on USPS and included claims the USPS had backdated postmarks on ballots. The comment was posted on Thursday, November 5, 2020 at 10:49 PM (**Exhibit 1**).

The RA performed general Internet research to locate the post, which yielded negative results. The RA specifically searched 4chan.org and the post was not located, indicating the thread had been closed and removed. No information was developed indicating the anonymous subject reported his complaint to any federal, state, or local agency.

The RA received copies of the 4chan.org post from an anonymous complainant and from the USPS employee named in the post, identified as (b)(6); (b)(7)(C)

(b)(6); (b)(7)(C)

Main Office Window Unit (MOWU), Madison Main

Post Office, Madison, WI 53703. (b)(6) expressed concerns about the false information and his personal reputation. (b)(6) was concerned for the safety of USPS employees at his office, given the political environment. (b)(6) advised his co-worker, (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) MOWU, Madison Main Post Office, Madison, WI 53703 was also named in the post for allegedly saying USPS was backdating ballots.

The anonymous subject who posted the comment was later identified as Ethan J. Pease, a temporary employee hired by United Mailing Services, Inc. (UMS) through Strategic Resources, Inc. Pease was hired as a route driver by UMS through Strategic Resources, Inc., on August 26, 2020 to drive a truck and pick up and drop off mail for UMS customers and to perform the Certified Mail delivery at the Madison Main Post Office. Pease did not show up for work at UMS following his website posting on November 5, 2020, and he no longer works for UMS.

On December 1, 2020, Pease appeared at a press conference held by The Amistad Project of the Thomas More Society (The Amistad Project), a national constitutional litigation organization (**Exhibit 2**). Pease was identified as a whistleblower who had an "eyewitness account" of suspected voter fraud. The Amistad Project press release stated whistleblowers will reveal substantial evidence of unlawful actions made by election officials and widespread illegal efforts by USPS workers to influence the outcome of the election.

Attempts to contact Pease on his personal cell phone, at his home address, and through representatives at The Amistad Project, all met with negative results.

The RA reviewed Pease's allegations contained in the 4chan.org website post on November 5, 2020 and the public statements he made at The Amistad Project press conference on December 1, 2020.

Allegation 1

On Wednesday, November 4, 2020, (b)(6) allegedly "let slip" to Pease that USPS dispatched employees that morning around 4:00 AM to collect forgotten ballots from third-party partners, like UMS, and seven to eight ballots were found at UMS. Pease stated he was asked by (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) if Pease had forgotten any ballots the night before, and Pease believed it was a lie about UMS having seven to eight ballots.

Allegation 1 Findings

On December 2, 2020, the RA conducted an interview of (b)(6); (b)(7)(C)

(b)(6); (b)(7)(C)

(b)(6); (b)(7)(C)

The RA conducted an interview of (b)(6); (b)(7)(C)

(b)(6); (b)(7)(C)

During The Amistad Project press conference on December 1, 2020, Pease stated he believed it was a lie that UMS held ballots past November 3, 2020. Pease stated he was surprised when (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) asked him if he had forgotten any ballots the night before.

The USPS OIG investigation determined UMS did not hold ballots past November 3, 2020 and there was no wrongdoing by Pease involving ballots.

On December 8, 2020, the RA interviewed Mark Kolb, Vice President, UMS (**Exhibit 5**). Kolb stated Pease never spoke to any UMS employees about the referenced voter ballots, but if he had, he would have learned that all ballots were delivered by UMS in a timely manner on November 3, 2020 and there were no issues.

No information has been developed that there were any “late” ballots attributed to UMS or that UMS mishandled ballots or failed to provide ballots to the USPS on November 3, 2020. No information has been developed that USPS or the Madison Post Office employees mishandled any voter ballots on November 3, 2020.

There is no evidence of USPS employees collecting late ballots after November 3, 2020 or being dispatched to “collect forgotten ballots.” Pease’s allegation is not based on any

direct observations by him or any event demonstrating wrongdoing by a USPS employee.

Allegation 2

On November 4, 2020, (b)(6); (b)(7)(V) allegedly told Pease the USPS found about 300,000 ballots Wednesday morning, November 4, 2020, because of a “direct order” by the Wisconsin/Illinois Postmaster to locate the ballots. Pease made public statements that the USPS needs to be held accountable for taking part in election fraud and for the 300,000 ballots that poured into Wisconsin during the early hours of November 4, 2020.

Allegation 2 Findings

During the interview of (b)(6); (b)(7)(C)

(b)(6); (b)(7)(C)

During The Amistad Project press conference on December 1, 2020, Pease referenced this allegation but changed the figure from 300,000, which he posted on 4chan.org, to 100,000 ballots, and stated, (b)(6); (b)(7)(V) told me an order came down from the Wisconsin/Illinois Chapter of USPS that 100,000 ballots were missing.” Pease stated (b)(6); (b)(7)(V) said the Madison Post Office dispatched employees to find them.

The RA conducted Internet research for news stories referencing 300,000 ballots and 100,000 ballots in Wisconsin and found several articles related to the subject (**Exhibit 6**). Media outlets widely reported 300,000 ballots were missing delivery scans and USPS lost or failed to deliver hundreds of thousands of ballots. Other articles referenced 100,000 ballots were “found” in favor of presidential candidate, Joe Biden, and were counted at 3:30 AM on November 4, 2020, putting Biden ahead in the election results. These reports were determined by news outlets to be untrue. Other news reports cited an “order” to sweep processing plants issued by a federal judge on November 3, 2020, to search for ballots.

The USPS OIG investigation determined this allegation involves miscommunication between individuals and Pease’s interpretation of a conversation with (b)(6); (b)(7)(V) where (b)(6); (b)(7)(V) cited numerous, widely-reported news stories. Pease interpreted (b)(6); (b)(7)(V) conversation as misconduct by the USPS. There is no evidence that USPS located any large amounts of

ballots following the election. Pease's allegation is not based on any direct observations by him or any event demonstrating wrongdoing by a USPS employee.

Allegation 3

On November 5, 2020, (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) allegedly told Pease that if ballots were postmarked by November 3, 2020, they were fine and would be counted. Pease stated (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) admitted the USPS was falsely postmarking "found" ballots for November 3, 2020, so that ballots would still be counted.

Allegation 3 Findings

On December 3, 2020, the RA interviewed (b)(6); (b)(7)(C)

(b)(6); (b)(7)(C)

During the interview of (b)(6); (b)(7)(C)

(b)(6); (b)(7)(C)

During The Amistad Project press conference on December 1, 2020, Pease stated (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) admitted USPS employees were ordered to backdate ballots received too late to be lawfully counted. Pease stated he asked (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) if he would get in trouble with his

boss for the ballots the other night, referencing the seven or eight ballots from UMS, and (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) told him he would not as long as they were postmarked by November 3, 2020.

On December 4, 2020, the RA conducted an interview of (b)(6); (b)(7)(C)

(b)(6); (b)(7)(C)

The USPS OIG investigation determined Wisconsin law required absentee voter ballots must be received by municipalities by the time polls closed on November 3, 2020, making the postmark irrelevant if the ballot was not received on November 3, 2020.

Allegation 4

Pease alleged he heard (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) and (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) make jokes about taking mail-in ballots for President Trump and throwing them out. Pease states he did not bring his concerns to his supervisors at USPS due to what he perceived as USPS hostilities towards President Trump and their evident contempt for the law.

Allegation 4 Findings

During the interview of (b)(6); (b)(7)(C)

(b)(6); (b)(7)(C)

During the interview of (b)(6); (b)(7)(C)

(b)(6); (b)(7)(C)

Pease made this allegation during The Amistad Project press conference on December 1, 2020. Pease made no such allegation in his 4chan.org post on November 5, 2020, which he posted shortly after his contact with (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) and (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) on November 5, 2020.

During The Amistad Project press conference, Pease stated he did not bring his concerns to his supervisors at USPS. UMS does not have a contract with USPS and are only certified to process mail as part of the USPS workshare program. Pease does not have any direct supervision by any USPS employee and is a temporary employee of UMS, hired through a job placement agency, Strategic Resources, Inc.

Exhibits:

1. 4chan.org post dated November 5, 2020.
2. Internet link to Amistad press conference.
3. Memorandum of Interview of (b)(6); (b)(7)(C)
4. Memorandum of Interview of (b)(6); (b)(7)(C)
5. Memorandum of Interview of Mark Kolb.
6. Compilation of election news articles.
7. Memorandum of Interview of (b)(6); (b)(7)(C)
8. Memorandum of Interview of (b)(6); (b)(7)(C)

PREPARED BY: (b)(6); (b)(7)(C)

DATE: 12/17/2020

Exhibits:

1. (b)(6); (b)(7)(C); (b)(7)(E)

2.

3.

4.

5.

6.

7.

8.



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CASE AGENT (if different from prepared by): N/A

MEMORANDUM OF ACTIVITY

On November 9, 2020, the U.S. Postal Service, Office of Inspector General (USPS OIG) received information regarding an online post on 4chan.org, an Internet image-based bulletin board where comments are posted anonymously, with the subject line, "WI USPS lied about 'finding' ballots – Anonymous". The post described "blowing the whistle" on USPS and included claims USPS employees backdated postmarks on ballots, and specifically mentioned (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) as responsible for or having knowledge of backdating postmarks on ballots.

During the investigation, multiple USPS employees and other individuals with knowledge of the allegation were interviewed to determine the validity of the claims against (b)(6); (b)(7)(C). All of those interviewed refuted the claims in the allegation and were not aware of any USPS employee, specifically (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) backdating postmarks on ballots.

On December 9, 2020, the Reporting Agent (RA) completed the investigation of (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) and (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) for potential violations of Title 18 USC § 595 Interference by Administrative Employees of Federal, State, or Territorial Government, and Title 18 USC § 1701 Obstruction of Mails Generally. The USPS OIG investigation determined all allegations against (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) were false.

Based on the investigative findings this case will not be presented for criminal, civil, or administrative consideration and the allegations against (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) are resolved as unfounded.

PREPARED BY: SA (b)(6); (b)(7)(C)

DATE: 12/14/2020