

Herring, Darlina

From: Welch, Kenneth
Sent: Tuesday, February 21, 2017 1:17 PM
To: Herring, Darlina
Subject: Fwd: Budget Development at Risk - Issues with BTS Support of Hyperion

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KT

Commissioner Kenneth T. Welch
Pinellas County Commission, District 7
727•464•3614

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Sent from my iPad Pro

Begin forwarded message:

From: "Woodard, Mark S" <mwoodard@co.pinellas.fl.us>
Date: February 15, 2017 at 6:07:48 PM EST
To: "Rose, Martin" <mrose@co.pinellas.fl.us>
Cc: "Welch, Kenneth" <kwelch@co.pinellas.fl.us>, "Klug, Della" <dklug@co.pinellas.fl.us>, "Bennett, John A" <JABennett@co.pinellas.fl.us>
Subject: **Budget Development at Risk - Issues with BTS Support of Hyperion**

We are extremely troubled that BTS has failed to meet critical milestones related to the FY18 Budget rollout due to issues supporting Hyperion.

As a result, the timely development of the FY18 budget is at risk affecting \$2 Billion and 2,500 employees. BTS has been repeatedly advised of the mission critical nature of this work and has not met the needs of the organization. These delays may impede our ability to meet statutory timelines and the Board of County Commissioner's timely adoption of the budget.

We are requesting immediate corrective action to address these deficiencies.

If there is any aspect of this communication that is unclear to you, please contact me right away.

Mark S. Woodard

County Administrator

Pinellas County

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Potential security breach at Tampa International Airport spurs review

Justine Griffin, Times Staff Writer
May 2, 2016

TAMPA — A potential security breach at Tampa International Airport has prompted the resignation of two information technology employees and spurred a slew of investigations and audits of the airport.

Tampa International Airport CEO Joe Lopano told the Hillsborough County Aviation Authority on Monday morning that he has hired two outside consulting firms to work with the authority's general counsel, Michael Stephens, to delve into the airport's IT department.

"I was very unhappy when this happened," Lopano said. "It's unacceptable. But the people involved are gone."

An anonymous email sent July 20 alerted airport staff of a possible security breach and questionable business practices by those working in the airport's IT department in connection with events dating back to 2014.

An internal investigation was launched by ethics and internal audit staff members at the airport. A third party IT security firm, Bayside Solutions, was hired to assess whether any sensitive security information was compromised.

The Bayside audit found several instances of wrongdoing by airport staff, which included the sharing of passwords allowing others to access airport systems. But the report did not find any evidence of a data breach or criminal activity.

Two members of the IT staff, David James, the IT director, and Gautham Sampath, a manager, resigned.

Sampath was hired as a consultant to upgrade the airport's computer system. He was accused of sharing security-sensitive passwords with people he said were co-workers who accessed the system in different countries.

The reports detail a series of sloppy administrative duties, like paperwork inconsistencies, unrecorded vacation days and a period of time when Sampath and his wife temporarily worked together on a project despite it being against airport protocol. But the issues detailed in the reports did not break laws or call for criminal charges, Stephens said. They mostly just show a history of cutting corners that could potentially open the door to larger threats if repeated, the audit reports show.

James was Sampath's immediate supervisor.

Lopano tasked Stephens to lead a five-month-long comprehensive review of the IT department and to identify areas where it can improve.

"After reviewing the progress made since January, I am dedicating even more resources to accelerate a comprehensive IT review," Lopano said.

Vaco Risk Solutions, another outside firm, has been hired to examine the airport's IT security functions for \$127,400. Plante Moran, a business consulting firm, was hired to conduct a second examination looking into the airport's IT organization for \$80,000.

Stephens said the Florida Attorney General's Office and the Transportation Security Administration also reached out to him about the incident.

"It was made clear at no time did any unauthorized people have access to secure information," Stephens said, adding that he will meet with representatives from the Attorney General's Office soon to discuss the matter. "The statute that governs data breach in Florida is very specific and it requires notification to the attorney general and the state. But there was nothing found in this incident that would indicate that there has been a violation of the statute."

An airport spokesperson said that the authority is unaware of any official investigations launched by other organizations.

"So far this has been an informal inquiry," spokesman Danny Valentine said.

TSA spokeswoman Sari Koshetz said that the "TSA is working with the airport authority to ensure no sensitive security information was compromised."

Kylie Mason, spokeswoman with the Florida Attorney General's Office, said they will be meeting with airport officials soon.

Stephens said there is no active litigation filed against the airport related to the situation, nor does he anticipate there to be. But Don Haire, a senior security analyst who works at the airport, was asked to resign after raising awareness of a possible data breach, according to paperwork filed by his attorney, Phyllis Towzey. Haire settled with the aviation authority and received a \$15,000 settlement, but had to sign a nondisclosure agreement.

Contact Justine Griffin at jgriffin@tampabay.com. Follow [@SunBizGriffin](https://twitter.com/SunBizGriffin).