



DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
CRIMINAL JUSTICE DIVISION

January 13, 2023

Delivery via email only to: Kevin_Barton@washingtoncountyor.gov

Hon. Kevin Barton
Washington County District Attorney
Washington County District Attorney's Office
150 North First Avenue, Suite 300
Hillsboro, Oregon 97124

Dear District Attorney Barton:

I am writing in response to your letter asking that the Department of Justice review a request for a criminal investigation by the Sherwood School District. As explained in your letter to us and the attached letter from the school district, the request stems from concerns regarding the mismanagement of school funds that led to a substantial budget shortfall. You asked for assistance from a financial crime investigator to determine how to proceed.

We have reviewed your letter as well as the attached letter from the school district. We also reviewed publicly available information regarding the district's budget and spoke to Chief Financial Officer Gary Bennett. As you noted in your letter, the school district had not identified any evidence of criminal activity in relation to the budget shortfall. In short, our review did not reveal any evidence of criminal behavior either. Accordingly, there is insufficient information to support a reasonable probability that an investigation would lead to evidence sufficient to warrant criminal charges and we recommend that the matter be closed.

Thank you for your referral and please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

Michael J. Slauson
Chief Counsel
Criminal Justice Division
Oregon Dept. of Justice

cc: Sherwood Police Chief Ty Hanlon (Via email)