



Happenings in the Office of Attorney General Steve Carter

March 7, 2008

Indiana Attorney General Steve Carter Launches Identity Theft Unit Over Increasing Concern of Electronic Data Security Breaches & Increasing Complaints of Identity Theft

March 2-8 is the 10th Annual National Consumer Protection Week

Indiana Attorney General Steve Carter has created an Identity Theft Unit to further assist identity theft victims and to provide additional resources to local law enforcement authorities that investigate and prosecute the crime. Security breaches and increased consumer complaints highlight the need for a specialized unit Carter announced today. In 2007, there were 328 security breaches nationwide in the private sector (source: Privacy Right's Clearinghouse), nearly one per day. At least 23 of those breaches involved personal information of Indiana residents.



"Our new unit is designed to reduce the frustration felt by victims and to provide expertise and resources to local law enforcement authorities in investigating and prosecuting this crime," Carter said. "We work with entities regularly on compliance with Indiana's security breach notification law. We want to ensure that citizens have been properly notified when their personal information has been jeopardized and left unsecured for identity thieves to access. When information gets into the wrong hands, it may cause havoc in the lives of victims who then find themselves in a vicious cycle of trying to prove who they are to federal, state and local authorities time and time again." [Press Release](#)

East Chicago Fireman Pleads Guilty to Vote Fraud

EC Fireman Demetrios Hasapis has plead guilty to Unauthorized Entry at Polls. Hasapis was charged in 2006 for illegal voting activity during the 2003 EC Mayoral Primary election.

There are now 44 convictions against 53 defendants charged by the Lake County Joint Vote Fraud Task Force.

Bill Removing a Public Official upon Conviction of a Crime becomes Law: Attorney General Steve Carter Applauds Quick Action to Revive Sanctions

Indiana Attorney General Steve Carter says there is now no question about when or if an elected official losses their seat if they are convicted of a felony. Governor Mitch Daniels signed SB 281 which clarified the loss of office for a felony conviction earlier this week.

"Rather than relying on an individual to make the right choice and step down when they've been convicted of a felony, state law will now dictate it for the benefit of the public," Carter said. "I'm appreciative of the General Assembly for addressing this issue quickly this year to halt any future instances of these kinds of shenanigans some elected officials have pulled in the past." [Press Release](#)

