



Angela Albers
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Winnsboro Woman Repays \$15,000 in Stolen Funds from Non-Profit

On Friday, September 30, 2022, Vicki Faye Moreno repaid the Winnsboro Chamber of Commerce \$15,000 that she had stolen from it, in lieu of prosecution. In a letter, Moreno took sole responsibility for her actions and expressed her sincerest apologies to the Chamber for what she had done. The Chamber is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. Wood County Criminal District Attorney Angela Albers represented the State in the prosecution of the case.

The case was worked by the Texas Rangers. On June 7, 2019, Texas Ranger John Vance began investigating questionable expenditures after receiving complaints from the Chamber's Board that there were concerns that a former employee, Moreno, had been stealing during her employment with the Chamber. Vance reviewed years of bank statements, tax returns, minutes of board meetings, and other financial records provided by the Chamber. Vance discovered that Moreno had written checks to family members and to herself for "contract labor." She also withdrew thousands of dollars from the Chamber's account and made numerous purchases with the Chamber's debit card that she was not authorized to make.

Vance met with Moreno for an interview on July 18, 2019. During the interview, Moreno admitted to taking the money from the Chamber to make personal expenditures. Moreno admitted to Vance that it was "all [her] fault" and she was "in financial trouble." Moreno was taken into custody and was booked into the Wood County Jail that same day.

Albers commented, "I appreciate the diligence of Ranger Vance for his work on this case. Non-profit organizations are not out to benefit themselves. They exist to help members of the community. Moreno betrayed the trust she was given as an employee of the Chamber and she exploited the citizens of Wood County by not only stealing money but money that other individuals and organizations in the community could have benefitted from. Fortunately, Moreno admitted what she did and expressed remorse for her actions. More importantly, however, is that we were able to get the Chamber some restitution. We hope that those funds will further benefit the Wood County community and its citizens."