

# THE SLEUTH

BLACKMAN DETECTIVE SERVICES NEWSLETTER

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JULY 2019, CASE NUMBER 19-03S



## REAL CASE STORIES FROM REAL DETECTIVES

### #19-03S : IT'S EVEN HOTTER IN THE ATTIC

The cases described in The Sleuth are real, but all names and identifying information have been changed.

It was a hot summer day, one of those days where the NC humidity seeps in through your pores, and back out again. The phone rang, and I answered it. An eager lady named Nancy began by telling me her neighbors were spying on her and listening to what she was saying inside her apartment. She was adamant that the eavesdropping was happening as we spoke, and everyone would know she'd called a P.I. by the end of the day. She said she could hear them there now. I agreed to sweep her residence for listening devices, figuring it was just a squirrel or other critter. That day, another Investigator and I arrived at the condo in question. We were met by the very excited lady in her late 30's. Her husband was sitting in a recliner reading the paper and not paying much attention. She said the noise stopped soon after she ended her conversation with me, and she thought the neighbors had gone back to their condo. Using a ladder my colleague climbed into the crawl space and into the small attic area to look around. After being up there a few minutes and taking photos with her phone, she came down, wet- sweat as having been in a shower of rain. Careful not to further spook Ms. Nancy, my partner and I reviewed the photos together. Running from the attic was a methodically labeled network of wiring. Further investigation revealed two pin-hole cameras inside Nancy's apartment, and two more in her neighbor's apartment, all connected to the same devices in the attic. BDS investigators conducted further research into Ms. Nancy's address and found that the previous tenant had a long criminal history, and within that record were charges related to peeping and voyeurism. Working with the local police department we located the man and during a recorded statement he confessed to installing the hidden cameras. BDS now works with the apartment complex and conducts criminal background checks on any resident applications.

### SNEAK PEEK INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

CASE # 19-03S - IT'S EVEN  
HOTTER IN THE ATTIC

LITTLE RED FLAGS - IS YOUR  
EMPLOYEE STEALING?

DID YOU KNOW? - STATISTICS  
ON MISSING CHILDREN IN THE  
US, AND HOW TO FINGERPRINT  
YOUR CHILD FOR FREE

MEET US @ MUNCH AND LEARN  
WITH GABIS GROUDS COFFEE







## LITTLE RED FLAGS

### SIGNS YOUR EMPLOYEE MAY BE STEALING



Employee theft manifests in several ways, from theft of office supplies to more valuable products and equipment, or stealing company time, misuse of work vehicles, or saving confidential company information on personal devices. But why do employees do it? According to security and HR experts most employee theft occurs when the employee has a perceived cause for the theft and feels justified in doing so. It could be that they are acting out of desperation from a financial or family issue at home, or that they feel overlooked for a promotion or pay raise. Some security professionals believe revenge to be the number one cause of employee theft; employees who feel the company owes them will go after their fair share. After considering why your employees might steal, preventing the theft comes from understanding *How* and *When* they might steal. Our answer: Temptation and opportunity.

Temptation can be deterred by the existence of video surveillance equipment, or the signing of non-compete or non-disclosure agreements upon hire. You can reduce the opportunity to steal by monitoring your surveillance and assigning two to a task. Of course, we always recommend thorough and quarterly background checking.

It's time to investigate further if you notice any of the following:

- Change in behavior at the register – More refunds, charge backs, or voiding of sales
- Tampering with CCTV camera systems – Cameras being moved or covered.
- Frequenting of or hanging out in camera “blind spots”
- Frequent breaks or down-time
- An increase in work “off the clock”
- Unwillingness to work in proximity with members of management
- Unusual vehicle activity at the dumpsters



"Whatever your life's work is, do it well."  
- Martin Luther King Jr.





# BLACKMAN DETECTIVE SERVICES

STANDING BEHIND OUR WORK



## DID YOU KNOW?

According to the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children, roughly 800,000 children are reported missing each year in the United States – that's roughly 2,000 per day. Of those, there are 115 child "stranger abduction" cases each year, which means the child was taken by an unknown person.

While we don't enjoy thinking about these numbers but they serve as a reminder of the importance of being prepared should the unthinkable ever happen to your child. One thing parents can do is to download or update their children's information in the FBI's Child ID app. The app, available free for both iPhones and Androids, allows parents to keep updated photos and physical descriptions of their children available on their smartphones. If your child goes missing, you can quickly send the information to authorities. (Source FBI.gov) Another thing parents can do is to keep their child's fingerprints on file at home. Blackman Detective Services offers **free fingerprinting** at their Garner office every Thursday from 12:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.



Thursdays 12pm - 2pm  
Blackman Detective Services

607 Benson Road  
Garner, NC



What are those sly sleuths up to now?  
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## Introducing the MUNCH AND LEARN



Are you bored with the routine business lunch and learn? Are you interested in learning more about private detective work? Our investigative team will come to you with hot coffee and "A Hug in a Mug" from Gabi's Grounds, to share their knowledge in the fields of research, surveillance, and investigative documentation. Get information on what a PI can do for you and hear more stories like this issue's *It's Even Hotter in the Attic*. Munch is on us!

