

Grady County Commissioner accused of recording employees, intimidating witnesses

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by Colleen Wilson

Wed, February 16th 2022, 6:04 PM CST

Grady County Commissioner Michael Walker was arrested Tuesday on charges of conspiracy and intimidating witnesses. (Grady County Criminal Justice Authority)

CHICKASHA, Okla. (KOKH) — A Grady County commissioner facing an embezzlement charge has been arrested, again.

Commissioner Michael Walker and his assistant, Neal Locke, were arrested Tuesday on charges of conspiracy and unlawful use of communications.

Court documents show Michael Walker recorded certain employees inside the Grady County District 1 Maintenance Building. One employee who was targeted was told a recording device was actually a motion detector, court documents allege.

Court documents show the camera recorded two specific employees from March 2021 to December 2021. Both employees were fired at the end of December.

On December 3, a search warrant was executed by law enforcement who obtained the recording device. The OSBI agent in charge of the warrant's execution learned that Walker and Locke were "bragging" to employees about how the OSBI missed the hidden portable audio recorder that was placed inside the Maintenance building, according to court documents.

Walker was arrested in May 2021 on a charge of embezzlement. OSBI agents say Walker embezzled thousands of dollars in county funds to make improvements to the private road he lives on.

Walker was released on his own recognizance shortly after his arrest and has kept his job as county commissioner since.

Among the new charges filed for Walker are a charge of intimidating witnesses.

Two employees at the Grady County District 1 Maintenance building say they were intimidated by Walker after his embezzlement arrest and before they were fired in December.

Court documents show Walker told an employee that when he filed to run for office again, he would fire "all who crossed him".

Court documents also allege Walker told a job candidate he would fire a certain employee for "stabbing him in the back."

Neal Locke, Walker's assistant, is facing three charges: 2 for unlawful use of communications and one charge of conspiracy. Court documents allege Locke was the one who placed the hidden recording device in the Maintenance building.

Walker's embezzlement case has not yet gone to trial. In October, the judge over the case recused himself. A new judge was assigned to the case in December.

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