

Managing Department Secondary Employment

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Abstract

A law enforcement officer working secondary employment within the city of Tallahassee is common. Officers working events vary from security at stores, security within apartment complexes or assisting with traffic at a family event are routine. Nationally, concern has risen pertaining to officers failing to pay taxes on income earned “under the table” or questions pertaining to workman’s compensation benefits following an injury related to an off-duty detail. The author was tasked by the Chief of Police to look into the options available to the Tallahassee Police Department in managing secondary employment while ensuring the agency is protected from improper police actions. Specifically, should the current practice of operating through individual officers’ called coordinator be changed to the purchase of a program that tracks all off-duty employment which is supervised by agency staff thus replacing all coordinators and assigning off-duty assignments on a first come first assigned basis?