

White Collar Crime in the Corporate Environment

By Reuben Wallie

This article is recent and is just one of a few articles regarding the same ongoing situation. I had to classify this as a white collar crime based on the lack of blue collar involvement. However, I understand it's not a large corporation, but interestingly enough that's the issue posed in the article. The issue is about claims that make something look like a corporation, when it's not quite all it's made out to be. In white collar crime, "false claims" sound like they go right along with the subject of white collar crime.

This will sound like a persuasive theme, because I can say right off the bat that I understand the concept of making claims in order to leverage within the corporate environment. In such an environment where getting turned down and being told "no" is prevalent, sometimes the only way to get recognition is to make big claims. The corporate environment, in my opinion, is one of the main environments where it's all too easy to get overlooked.

This article itself will explain the techniques being used specific to this situation of so-called "false claims." So, let's just see what the writer of the article said all in this one quote:

"A 58-year-old Youngstown woman lied to the Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Correction when she applied for a license to bring ex-convicts to an apartment building at 365 East Midlothian Blvd. where the woman said she operates as a "transitional center."

Andrea Mahone Blackmon also provided false information when she applied for a rental unit certificate in 2023 and 2024 from the Boardman Township Planning/Zoning Office, according to the department's director, T.J. Keiran.

“False information was provided using Just In Time Initiative as the property owner, and Andrea Blackmon signing as the property owner,” Keiran said.”

Upon reading the whole article, to me, I don't see the justification for condemning the woman. The reason I say this is because the things said against her are just a bunch of plays off “red tape”! Any clerical person that deals with paperwork knows that the process of filling out paperwork often involves finding the best suitable information to input on the paperwork. Just because it looks like someone is making false claims, doesn't mean they are; in this case I think the woman was using the best information she could produce to further her mission.

Regarding the mission, the article doesn't seem to give any credence to the fact that the woman is on a mission for the greater good. I know there are people that use 501(c)3 status and it's just a cover for bad activity; I don't see that here.

When I really think about it, the actual white collar crime here may be the defamation of the woman, by the writer of the article; or at least the writer's sources. As I re-read the article, I get the idea that she is a victim of others “reaching” to find things against her.

I'm not saying that some un-known entity just doesn't want a center of that caliber and nature operating in the area. The nature of a “transitional center” is of course working towards a more desirable situation than the one a person is starting out in. The specifics of what types of transitions going on were listed in the article.

I'm actually surprised that someone who has the ambition to make a mission out of supporting people by running a “transitional center” would be put down in such a manner as in the article. My thought is, who else is willing to do what the woman is doing? Or does the community really just want to forget about the practical things when it comes to supporting people in their own life situations? I'm the last person to “traffic guilt” by saying that we need to

do things for people “less fortunate than ourselves.” I do think that where there’s a will, there is a way for a person to move on in life, even in situations as seen in this article.

Now, back to the assignment: I don’t think making false claims is anything new in the corporate environment! Think about any paperwork you’ve filled out, and how easy a journalist could come along and critique the paperwork and come out and say its “Lies and false claims.”

Realistically, practically, reasonably and non-rigidly speaking, I think it’s important to remember people are just doing their best when it comes to red tape, and that cannot be grounds to accuse someone of white collar crime. If it's not obvious, I'll just say in my own opinion there's nothing malicious about what the woman is doing; just a little look into her reputation goes to show that there's nothing malicious. If I had to compare this to something I would say it's trying to put someone in prison for setting their cruise control at 2 mph over the speed limit.

So once again, “Lies and false claims” is not a new technique being used in white collar crime. The woman seems to be looking beyond the red tape when it comes to the present clerical work.

As far as the approach to *identifying, studying, controlling, or prosecuting white collar crime*, it seems to always be some form of news outlet that broadcasts a negative narrative about the alleged white color crime. My role in this is to actually stop it at the news outlet and declassify it from being white collar crime and reclassify it as a bureaucratic red tape issue. The textbook material doesn't exactly talk about the red tape factor. News can be used as involvement itself in the white collar crime if it is publicizing something which creates defamation that results in just as much if not worse damage than a crime.

If the woman stops getting support from the community based on the articles being produced, that seems to me like it’s a white collar crime against the woman.

References:

Youngstown Woman Makes False Claim about Owning East Midlothian Building.

BY JOHN A. DARNELL JR.

[Boardman News: The Boardman Ohio Community News Source](#)

<https://www.andreamahonefoundation.org>