



City Manager's Office

16 W. 9th St.
Shawnee, OK 74801
ShawneeOK.org

October 26, 2026

The City of Shawnee is providing information to the public regarding a matter involving Oak View Group, the private company contracted to manage and operate the City-owned Heart of Oklahoma Exposition Center.

In late July 2026, Oak View Group notified the City of Shawnee that it was conducting an internal investigation into an Oak View Group employee concerning the alleged mismanagement of funds at the Heart of Oklahoma Exposition Center. Oak View Group informed the City that the employee under investigation had been terminated and posed no additional threat.

At that time, Oak View Group also filed a report of potential criminal activity with the Shawnee Police Department. The Shawnee Police Department subsequently conducted a criminal investigation into the former Oak View Group employee. That investigation resulted in the recent arrest of the individual.

Oak View Group cooperated fully with the criminal investigation. Oak View Group has assured the City of Shawnee that any wrongfully taken funds belonging to the City will be repaid upon full and final determination of the amount, as agreed by the City. Oak View Group has also confirmed that it maintains active criminal loss insurance policies as required under its management agreement with the City.

The City of Shawnee emphasizes that the individual who was arrested was never employed by the City of Shawnee and did not have access to any City of Shawnee bank accounts. The individual was an employee of Oak View Group.

The City of Shawnee will continue to monitor this matter and will work with Oak View Group to determine the amounts owed to the City. The City has assessed its legal rights under the management agreement and will pursue all available contractual remedies to ensure that the City is made whole and to prevent any recurrence.

The City of Shawnee is committed to the responsible stewardship of public funds and public property, and to transparency with its residents. Because the criminal matter remains ongoing, the City will provide additional information as appropriate.