

NEWS

Senator Gary Siplin requests that the Florida Department of Law Enforcement investigate the Town of Eatonville

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**Contact: Naomi Cooper
850-487-5190**

TALLAHASSEE – Alarmed by financial irregularities detailed in an audit report on the town of Eatonville, State Senator Gary Siplin (D-Orlando) on Thursday requested a more thorough probe by the Florida Department of Law Enforcement.

“We need to determine whether any crimes have been committed and if money is owed to the township by any public employees or officials,” said Siplin, who has asked FDLE executive director Guy Tunnell to more closely examine each of the audit findings.

The request for an FDLE investigation follows the delivery earlier this week of petitions to the Governor and the Senator, in which Eatonville residents asked that a financial oversight board be appointed for the township.

The petitions cited findings by the Auditor General’s office, which began the township audit at the request of the Senator following disclosures of mismanagement and the township’s default on employee payments.

In their petition, citizens outlined four areas of concern:

- 1) Thousands of dollars in cell phone charges by town officials;
- 2) A failure by officials to collect funds beneficial to the town;
- 3) The payment of money on behalf of a former employee; and
- 4) The closure of a fire station without a citizen vote.