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St. Tammany Parish Agency Owner Served with Cease and Desist Order and Summary Suspension

A St. Tammany Parish insurance agency owner has been served by Louisiana Department of Insurance Fraud Division investigators with a summary suspension and a cease and desist order for alleged misappropriation of insurance premium funds.

Michael Neely, a property and casualty producer and owner of Mike Neely Insurance Agency, L.L.C., is alleged to have misappropriated thousands of dollars in insurance premium. According to investigators, Neely accepted a check for \$9,824 from St. Tammany Parish Recreation District #4 for the purchase of property and casualty insurance. Investigators say Neely failed to actually purchase the insurance coverage. Authorities say he later refunded the premium to the recreation district. Neely faces revocation of his insurance producer license as well as a possible fine imposed by the commissioner of insurance.

Alicia Neely, an employee of Mike Neely Insurance Agency, was also served with a cease and desist order for operating as an insurance agent without a valid insurance producer license. Michael Neely and Alicia Neely have 30 days from the time of service to request an administrative appeal or the above actions will become final.

Insurance Commissioner Jim Donelon urges consumers who feel uneasy about any insurance related transaction to call the Department of Insurance Fraud Division at 225-342-4956 or 1-800-259-5300. If callers do not want their names used, they can request that their involvement be kept confidential.

About the Louisiana Department of Insurance: *The Louisiana Department of Insurance works to improve competition in the state's insurance market while assisting individuals and businesses with the information and resources they need to be informed consumers of insurance. As a regulator, the LDI enforces the laws that provide a fair and stable marketplace and makes certain that insurers comply with the laws in place to protect policyholders. You can contact the LDI by calling 1-800-259-5300 or visiting www.ldi.la.gov.*