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Top News

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Airport Employee Finds Bag Containing \$ Money Was Part Of Federal Reserve Cargo Shipment



Alita Guillen
Reporting

(CBS) CHICAGO An employee at Midway Airport found a big stash of cash along a service road Wednesday morning.

CBS 2's Alita Guillen reports a security worker found about \$300,000 and did not keep it.

The money belongs to the Federal Reserve, and he feels he was just doing his job by turning it in.

After 25 years as a Chicago police officer and more than 15 working airport security, Wednesday's find was a first for Department of Aviation Security Sergeant Donald Wojtowicz.

"I wouldn't dare open it," he said.

It was 8 a.m. and Wojtowicz was making his rounds patrolling Midway Airport when he came across a package on the service road off 64th Street.

"I went over to the package, I bent down and as I started to pick it up on its side, part of the package was clear plastic. And at that point I could see it was all brand new bills wrapped," he said.

There was \$320,000 to be exact, marked Federal Reserve. The sergeant knew it didn't belong and put it on the front seat of his SUV.

"It was just like a good looking girl," he joked.

It turns out the package was part of a larger cargo shipment that had arrived on an ATA flight from Washington D.C. earlier that morning. How it ended up on the side of the road is unclear.

As for the sergeant, he says he never thought about what it would be like to keep the money. He was just doing his job.

"The city pays me a very good salary and I've got my retirement from the Chicago Police Department, so I do very well," he said.

Though he didn't get to keep any of the money, the Department of Aviation is evaluating possible awards for the sergeant on a job well done.

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