

Kentucky secures \$556K in CashApp settlement

BY BRADLEE REED-WHALEN
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Kentucky, alongside 45 other states, has reached a \$45 million settlement with CashApp for unfair and deceptive business practices, Attorney General Russell Coleman announced.

A multi-state coalition was started in 2021 to investigate the parent company of financial platform CashApp, Block Incorporated. The investigation found that the Block Inc., formerly Square Incorporated, had misrepresented CashApp's safety and insurance coverage, failed to honor refund protections and wrongly froze some user's

accounts.

"We're proud to protect Kentucky consumers from predatory businesses. We are helping to make Kentuckians whole and putting into place safeguards that will help prevent Kentuckians from falling victim to fraud in the future," Coleman said in a press release.

The settlement resulted a total of \$556,445.47 for defrauded Kentuckians and for recovery of investigation and litigation costs. CashApp also agreed to implement and maintain practices to resolve security and customer service issues as a result of settlement.

Changes to CashApp

include:

- 24-hour live customer support
- Anti-fraud safeguards reporting to state attorneys general
- Procedures for notifying customers of account suspensions, deactivations and locks.

The group of 46 attorneys general also secured \$75 million to \$120 million for direct relief to CashApp users nationwide. Further legal action will be taken by the group if Block Inc. has not paid at least \$75 million by January 2030.

Kentucky was represented by Matt Cavanaugh and Lindsey Antos with the Attorney General's Office of Consumer

and Senior Protection in the case.

The 46 states who joined the lawsuit were Alabama, Alaska, Arizona, Arkansas, California, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Idaho, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Louisiana, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, North Carolina, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, Vermont, Virginia, Washington, West Virginia, and Wisconsin.

See the full settlement below.

FROM PAGE 1A EXANTUS

near the end of their sentence. The idea behind the program was that certain inmates should not just be released onto the streets. Instead, it's better for parole officers to keep an eye on them for the final months of their sentence.

WHY WOULD SOMEONE WHO KILLED A BOY IN HIS OWN HOME ONLY GET A 20-YEAR PRISON SENTENCE?

Exantus didn't go to prison for the murder of Logan Tipton.

In 2018, a Fayette Circuit Court jury found Exantus not guilty by reason of insanity on a murder charge in Logan's death, absolving him of criminal responsibility. Then it found him guilty of the less serious charges of second- and fourth-degree assault for his attack on other Tipton family members.

The unusual split verdict was appealed to the Kentucky Supreme Court, which upheld it.

IF EXANTUS WAS SENTENCED TO 20 YEARS, HOW DID HE FINISH HIS TIME 11 YEARS AFTER THE CRIME?

The original expiration date of Exantus' prison sentence was Nov. 24, 2035, or about 20 years after he was placed in jail following his attack on the Tipton family. Inmates usually get credit for time they spend in jail prior to being convicted and transferred to prison.

However, Exantus shaved years off his sentence with a combination of credits for good behavior while in prison and participation in multiple educational and work programs. Like most states, Kentucky offers this incentive to inmates not only to help

reform them but also to keep them more manageable while incarcerated.

AFTER THE CONTROVERSY LAST YEAR WHEN EXANTUS WAS FIRST RELEASED, DIDN'T THE KENTUCKY LEGISLATURE CHANGE THE LAW? WHY IS HE STILL GOING FREE?

There isn't much the legislature can do about a particular criminal case once the defendant has been convicted and sentenced. There's a legal principle, the ex post facto doctrine, that says you can't change the consequences for an action that's already taken place. You can only look ahead to the future.

After some debate, the 2026 General Assembly earlier this year passed House Bill 422, known as "Logan's Law," to address some of the circumstances raised by the Exantus case.

The new law restricts who is eligible for the mandatory reentry supervision program, eliminating repeat violent offenders and those sent back to prison for previous violations of early release. It instructs the Kentucky Department of Corrections to collect data and publish an annual report on the early release program.

Additionally, it sets new rules for insanity pleas in criminal cases, establishing that a jury can't find a person was sane for one part of a criminal act but insane for a different part.

And it allows for the involuntary hospitalization in a psychiatric facility of a person, once their sentence ends, if they were found guilty but mentally ill and a treating physician decides they need further treatment.

Developer seeks zone change for Lexington condo project

BY ADRIAN PAUL BRYANT
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A prominent local developer wants to bring a new project to Lexington's downtown.

Cowgill is seeking a zone change for property at 512 and 518 East Main St. to a downtown business zone to construct a six-story condominium building.

The Urban County Planning Commission will likely vote on the project in August.

The building, which

will also cover properties at 522 East Main St. and 109 Kentucky Ave. that are already zoned for downtown business, will house 16 for-sale condos.

The office building at 512 East Main St. will not be demolished for the project. Schnabel Interiors will continue to work in the building, but eventually Cowgill wants to turn the building into a "live-work" space or another use allowed in the downtown business zone.

The office building at 518 East Main Street will

be taken down if the zone change is approved. A small house at 109 Kentucky Ave. will also be removed. Cowgill says in a letter to the city attached to the application that the company will work with the resident to find new housing if the proposal is approved.

The condos will each have either two or three bedrooms. An interior parking garage will have 32 spaces for residents, and a surface parking lot will have 12 spots for visitors and delivery

drivers.

The proposed project would not be the only condo building in the vicinity. Hanover Towers and The Woodland are just a few blocks down from the Cowgill site. Directly across Main Street is the Arcs on Main apartment building and the Bell Court neighborhood.

Cowgill owns multiple apartment complexes throughout Lexington, including The Reserve at Merrick and Studios 180 on Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd.

FROM PAGE 1A SCHOOL AUDITS

the district a letter telling them to rescind the RFP (bid) for that duplicative audit and that if they didn't, we wouldn't ask the (General Assembly) for the money. It's not fair to ask the Kentucky taxpayers outside of FCPS to foot the bill since it is something that the district feels they can afford."

McKown said it's too soon to say how much that audit will cost.

Miranda Scully, a spokeswoman for Fayette County Public Schools, said the district has budgeted \$350,000 for audits for the current fiscal year.

AN AUDIT AND TWO INVESTIGATIONS

The audit Ball's office wanted FCPS to cancel is being done by Weaver and Tidwell, a Texas-based firm the district signed a contract with on Jan. 7.

The initial contract was for \$121,560, according to board documents. However, the Fayette County Board of Education recently approved an additional \$35,000 for that contract bringing the total to \$156,560.

Weaver and Tidwell asked for the additional funds after discovering the district's financial problems were complex.

"Due to the complexity of the audit and the many changes since the inception of the contract, the firm needs approximately one hundred more hours to complete the audit, at a cost not to exceed \$35,000," according to a document included in the board's June 21 agenda.

The Weaver and Tidwell audit should be completed in coming weeks, school officials have said.

In addition to the Weaver and Tidwell audit, the board also hired Tueth Keeney Cooper Mohan Jackstadt P.C., a Missouri-based law firm, in 2025 to

review its budgeting and other practices.

That review found systemic failures in financial forecasting and unauthorized use of the "rainy day" contingency fund, though no intentional misconduct was found.

District officials said that review, which was released in March, cost the district \$75,220.

The district first hired VanAntwerp Attorneys in 2025 after many of the district's financial problems came to light, including a potential \$16 million shortfall and a rapidly draining contingency fund.

The report, released in February 2026, said Liggins should have looked deeper into the district's financial situation by at least May 2025, which is when school board members first discussed the \$16 million budget gap during a meeting. The report also said Liggins did not have an effective budgeting process in place to monitor expenses and how they affected the



Board members speak during a school board meeting on Aug. 18, 2025, at Fayette County Public Schools Central Office in Lexington.

district's budget. The report also said Liggins didn't have the personnel and systems needed in place to either avoid financial issues or alert him to those issues.

That investigation cost the district \$37,825.80.

VanAntwerp is also the firm investigating Liggins' employment after the board voted unanimously to place Liggins on paid administrative leave. The

district has remained mum on why Liggins was placed on administrative leave.

According to the contract obtained by the Lexington Herald-Leader through an Open Records Act request, the law firm

will bill the district \$200 an hour for lawyers and \$100 for paralegals. In addition, VanAntwerp can charge the district for travel and other expenses, according to the June 11 contract.

However, the Ashland

law firm was hired after Rep. Adrielle Camuel, D-Lexington, who is also an administrative assistant with the district, reported finding an email reportedly from a Louisville-based law firm warning that criticism of Liggins could be considered defamation. The law firm has denied writing the email.

A video shows Liggins placing something underneath Camuel's office door at the administrative building. Liggins has said that he only gave staff encouraging notes. Liggins has since asked the state's Office of Education Accountability to open an investigation and also has asked the Kentucky Attorney General's office to rule the board violated the state's Open Meetings Act when they placed him on administrative leave. The district has said it followed the state's open meetings laws.

The attorney general's office is expected to rule soon.



Graves Gilbert Clinic

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PRACTICE

- Graves-Gilbert Clinic is one of the largest physician-owned multi-specialty medical groups in the state of Kentucky
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- Practices located in South Central Kentucky
- Income guarantee and excellent fringe benefit package
- Member/Shareholder opportunities
- Athena EMR utilized

COMMUNITY INFORMATION

- Bowling Green is the state's third largest city; fastest growing community in Kentucky and family-friendly place to live
- Cost of living below national average
- Access to extensive arts and entertainment venues
- Home to Western Kentucky University and The Gatton Academy of Mathematics & Science, a ranked top performing high school with elite students
- Easy access to Nashville and major international airports

ALL VIABLE CANDIDATES ARE ENCOURAGED TO APPLY. Please forward C's to: Debbie Diamond, Graves-Gilbert Clinic, 201 Park Street, Bowling Green KY 42102, or e-mail them to: diamondd@ggclinic.com.

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The Office Administrator / Bookkeeper is responsible for the day-to-day administrative, bookkeeping, and operational functions that keep your business running smoothly. This role supports company leadership by managing financial records, coordinating office operations, and ensuring organizational efficiency across multiple departments.

The ideal candidate is highly organized, detail-oriented, dependable, and enjoys wearing many hats in a collaborative small-business environment.



ADMINISTRATIVE & OPERATIONS

- Manage and maintain the company Master Development Calendar.
- Coordinate company projects and task lists in collaboration with leadership.
- Schedule and facilitate office meetings, documenting action items, project updates, and follow-up tasks.
- Provide administrative support to the Director and leadership team on day-to-day operations and special projects.
- Maintain office supplies, kitchen inventory, and overall office organization.
- Receive, distribute, and coordinate incoming and outgoing mail, courier deliveries, and shipments.
- Maintain company mailing lists, contact databases, and electronic filing systems within Google Workspace.
- Coordinate domestic and international travel arrangements for trade shows, conferences, and company events.
- Administer company accounts, subscriptions, and software licenses, including Verizon, Apple, Adobe, Shopify, and Google Workspace.
- Oversee office technology assets, including computers, mobile devices, key fobs, and security systems.
- Coordinate with HR and assist with employee onboarding
- Support company initiatives and perform additional administrative duties as needed.



BOOKKEEPING

- Manage Accounts Payable using QuickBooks Online.
- Process credit card transactions, bank deposits, monthly bank reconciliations, and international wire transfers.
- Prepare and reconcile monthly corporate credit card expense reports.
- Resolve accounts receivable discrepancies with customers and procurement departments.
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- Prepare weekly and monthly financial and operational reports using Excel, QuickBooks, and proprietary software.
- Generate monthly reporting for collaborations, licensing agreements, royalties, and business partnerships.
- Prepare year-end accounting reports and assist the CFO and external accounting firm during the annual financial close and tax preparation process.



QUALIFICATIONS

- Degree in Accounting, Business Administration, Finance, or a related field preferred. Equivalent professional experience will be considered.
- 3+ years of experience in office administration, bookkeeping, accounting, or business operations.
- Experience using QuickBooks.
- Proficiency with Microsoft Office.
- Strong organizational, time management, and multitasking skills.
- Excellent verbal and written communication skills.
- High level of accuracy, discretion, and attention to detail.
- Ability to prioritize competing responsibilities and meet deadlines independently.
- Ability to maintain confidentiality and handle sensitive information.



PREFERRED ATTRIBUTES

- Positive, proactive, and solution-oriented attitude.
- Strong sense of ownership, accountability, and professionalism.
- Comfortable working independently while collaborating across departments.
- Adaptable and willing to take on a variety of responsibilities in a growing business.
- Experience supporting a small business or entrepreneurial environment is a plus.



BENEFITS

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