

Broward School Maintenance Employees Caught On Camera

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BROWARD COUNTY, Fla. -- What does lingerie and long lunches have to do with maintenance at some Broward County public schools?

Local 10 Investigative Reporter Jilda Unruh
<<http://www.local10.com/news/3959710/%20http://www.local10.com/station/47162/detail.html>> uncovered about possible mismanagement, waste and failed accountability in the Broward School District's Maintenance division in a Local 10 Problem Solver hidden camera investigation.

SLIDESHOW

Workers Take Their Time At Lingerie Lunches
<<http://www.local10.com/news/3959710/>>

Every Friday at a Margate restaurant called Bru's Room luncheon customers can get some breasts with their wings and ribs thanks to a lingerie show that is put on by one, sometimes two lingerie models.

So we wondered, were the women in the titillating teddies the reason so many Broward School Maintenance employees were lingering over long lunches? Using hidden cameras, we decided to find out.

Broward School maintenance workers only get a 30-minute lunch break including drive time.

But that rule was repeatedly broken as Local 10 discovered while staking out Bru's Room on seven Fridays between August and November.

Aug. 27: Six maintenance trucks show up at Bru's Room between 11:10 and 11:54 a.m. They lunch for approximately 30 minutes to an hour and a half.

It's the same on Oct. 1. But this time it's only four trucks, one of which (#3166) spent an hour and 20 minutes at the restaurant, even though there were nine open work orders at Coral Springs High, one of the schools where documents indicate he spent 2.5 hours working.

Oct. 8: Five trucks are already at Bru's Room when we arrive at 11:44 a.m. and most leave nearly an hour later.

Oct. 15: Same thing -- four trucks averaging an hour for lunch.

Oct. 22: Three trucks take an hour to hour and a half for lunch with drive time before they're back at school.

Oct. 29: Five trucks show up and spend on average an hour for lunch.

By Friday, Nov. 19, it was time to ask some tough questions. The Local 10 Problem Solvers started with the driver of a truck, who spent almost an hour and a half at lunch that day.

Local 10 Executive Producer Amber Statler caught up with plumber Mark Gabrione, who we'd seen at Bru's Room twice.

Statler: "How much time do you get to eat lunch?"

Gabrione "30 minutes."

Our producer pressed on.

Statler: "Do you like the lingerie show?"

Gabrione: "I didn't know they had one."

Didn't know that had one?

Sorry, Mark. Local 10's hidden cameras caught the lingerie model in her bikini thong, stockings and fluffy bra selling you and your co-worker raffle tickets. They both even stared as she walked away.

In all, 13 trucks showed up at Bru's Room over those seven Friday's. Half were there twice or more. But by far, the regular was plumber Dan Bonneksen who was there all seven Fridays -- lunching as models in bras, panties and teddies strolled the room selling raffle tickets.

Jilda: "Hey Dan..."

Bonneksen: "Yes."

Jilda: "Jilda Unruh with Local 10. Need to ask you some questions about these long lunches you and the guys have been having for quite some time. You're here over an hour and a half. Do you log that on your time sheet?"

Bonneksen: "No. I was here for half an hour."

Jilda: "You got here at 11:28 and it's now 20 of 12."

(Bonneksen slams his door shut and starts the engine.)

Jilda: "Do you put this on your time sheet?"

Jilda: "Do your bosses know you take these long lunches, Dan?"

A spokesman for the school district called our findings unacceptable and told Local 10 that the district has launched its own investigation.

But don't think this is just a story about a bunch of guys taking long lunches.

Local 10 learned that consultants have told the school board to hire nearly 100 more maintenance workers. Even though our hidden cameras have proven the district is unable to properly track their current employees.

Coming up Wednesday at 11 p.m., the ineptitude, mismanagement and possible fraud Local 10 uncovered when we got our hands on these workers time cards and truck logs on the days we caught them lunching over lingerie.

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