



## DataDotDNA snares corrupt US public servant Friday 17<sup>th</sup> June 2004

A trail of DataDotDNA has caught a Florida public servant red-handed, after he allegedly pocketed more than \$2,000 in change from city parking meters.

Detectives reportedly watched the superintendent of public works in Florida Keys empty money from downtown meters.

Police say they believe the practice has gone on for at least five years and tens or even hundreds of thousands of dollars may have been stolen in coins.

To help mount a case against the corrupt public servant, local police applied DataDotDNA to \$84 worth of coins and inserted them into several meters.

DataDotDNA are tiny discs, about the size of a grain of sand, that are laser-etched with a microscopic code.

Detectives again watched the suspect, filming him this time as he emptied parking meters in the same area, and they confronted him after he had returned to his home.

They found \$2,078.66 of change in a plastic bucket in the man's vehicle, including \$28.75 of coins marked with DataDotDNA which were thus indisputably taken from the parking meters.

No date has yet been set for the man's hearing.