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Former Ramsey administrator enters not guilty plea on theft charges

Author(s): ALLISON PRIES :Delivery|e-Edition| |Mobile/Apps |Alerts Place an Ad |Marketplace |Jobs |Cars |Homes |Deals!

Date: July 26, 2012

Section: Ramsey

RAMSEY – Deputy Municipal Court Administrator [REDACTED] entered a not guilty plea in a Hackensack courtroom Thursday on charges she stole nearly \$2,000 from the borough. The 51-year-old Waldwick resident appeared before Bergen Vicinage Municipal Division of the Superior Court Judge Roy McGeady with her attorney, **Michael Beatrice**, who entered the plea on her behalf.

[REDACTED] remains free, having been released on her own recognizance after she turned herself in to Ramsey Police last Friday on third degree theft by deception charges.

The Ramsey Municipal Court Administrator told the Bergen Vicinage in April that a cash payment received by the court was never deposited, touching off the investigation.

The investigation was turned over to the Ramsey Police, who determined that between Nov. 2, 2009 and Sept. 27, 2011 [REDACTED] accepted cash for court fees, generated hand-written receipts but never deposited the money, Ramsey Police Chief Bryan Gurney said.

This occurred in 13 separate transactions worth \$1,904, he said.

Judge McGeady, in reading the charges Thursday, said the money in question was paid by defendants to the court for public defender fees, conditional discharge fees and to cover tickets.

The third degree charge would mean up to three to five years in jail and up to a \$15,000 fine if she is convicted, he said.

[REDACTED] was instructed to report to criminal case management within 48 hours of her Thursday hearing, as is standard for defendants.

"It's what we expected," Beatrice, her attorney, said, adding, "at this stage there's a presumption of innocence that needs to apply."

[REDACTED] began working part time in Ramsey in February 2000 and was hired as a full-time employee in July 2001. She was suspended with pay in April when the investigation began and was moved to an unpaid suspension on June 1. Her salary was \$44,539.23, according to Ramsey's municipal clerk.

The next step in the process, Beatrice said, is to obtain, review and discuss the evidence with the Bergen County Prosecutor's office, which will determine whether the case goes before a grand jury.

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Ramsey administrator scheduled to appear in court on theft charges

JULY 25, 2012, 7:45 PM | LAST UPDATED: WEDNESDAY, JULY 25, 2012, 7:42 PM

BY ALLISON PRIES
STAFF WRITER | THE RECORD

RAMSEY - The borough's deputy court administrator is scheduled to appear in court Thursday to enter a plea on charges she stole nearly \$2,000 from the borough.

██████████, 51, of Waldwick, turned herself in Friday to Ramsey Police who filed third-degree theft-by-deception charges after a three-month-long investigation, police said.

The Ramsey Municipal Court Administrator told the Municipal Division of the Superior Court in April that a cash payment received by the court was never deposited, touching off the investigation.

A person appeared before the municipal judge April 24 and was told that he had to pay all of his fines before he could be discharged from a program, Ramsey Police Chief Bryan Gurney said Wednesday. When the man told the judge he had paid the fines, he was asked to present receipts. When he showed the handwritten receipts to the court clerk, it was discovered that \$100 that he had paid was missing from the court.

The investigation was turned over to the police department, that found that between Nov. 2, 2009 and Sept. 27, 2011 ██████████ accepted cash for court fees, generated hand-written receipts but never deposited the money, Gurney said.

This occurred in 13 separate transactions worth \$1,904, he said.

██████ began working part time in Ramsey in February 2000 and was hired as a full-time employee in July 2001. She was suspended with pay in April when the investigation began and was moved to an unpaid suspension on June 1. Her salary was \$44,539.23, according to Ramsey's municipal clerk.

"Once the report and investigation of the court came back, that's when she was suspended without pay," Borough Administrator Bruce Vozeh said.

Michael J. Beatrice, an attorney representing ██████, said his client has "done honorable work for a very long time."

"I haven't seen any of the evidence that the police say they have," Beatrice said Wednesday. "At this point it's our intention to plead not guilty and to attempt to resolve this matter as expeditiously as possible."

██████ is expected to appear before Judge Roy McGeady in Bergen Vicinage in Hackensack at 1:30 p.m.

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Deputy court administrator pleads not guilty to theft

Author(s): Catherine Carrera STAFF WRITER

Date: August 2, 2012

Section: A

RAMSEY - While the borough's deputy municipal court administrator pleaded not guilty to theft-by-deception charges in Superior Court last week, it is now up to the Bergen County Prosecutor's Office to determine whether to bring the case to a grand jury. ██████████, 51, of Waldwick, pleaded not guilty Thursday, July 26, to charges she stole nearly \$2,000 from the borough. Penalties for conviction on the third-degree crime are three to five years in jail and a \$15,000 fine.

██████████ who worked for the borough for 12 years, appeared at the Bergen Vicinage Municipal Division of the Superior Court in front of Judge Roy McGeady with her attorney, **Michael Beatrice**. She had been arrested July 20 after turning herself in, and remains free, having been released on her own recognizance.

The local court discovered cash deposits were missing from its accounts when an individual who was summoned for an appearance on April 24 for failing to pay an overdue \$100 fine submitted a handwritten receipt signed by ██████████, Police Chief Bryan Gurney said Wednesday, July 25.

The information was sent by the municipal court administrator to the Bergen Vicinage, sparking an audit which determined the cash payment had never been deposited.

Soon after, the police department began its investigation.

According to Gurney, the investigation found 13 instances in which ██████████ wrote receipts for cash payments that were never deposited. The amount determined to have been stolen between Nov. 2, 2009, and Sept. 27, 2011, totaled \$1,904, Gurney said.

According to administration at the Bergen Vicinage, the borough's court accepts cash, checks, or money orders and only issues handwritten receipts when computer systems are down or if the payments are related to bail; otherwise, the receipts are computer-generated.

Authorities say additional charges may be brought against ██████████.

Borough Administrator Bruce Vozech said ██████████ tenure with the court began on Feb. 22, 2000. She was promoted from clerk to deputy court administrator on Feb. 22, 2005. She was earning a salary of \$44,593, according to a report in The Record.

██████████ was suspended with pay on April 25 and suspended without pay on June 1, Vozech said.

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