



NEWS RELEASE

Prosecutor Camelia M. Valdes
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PASSAIC COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICER CHARGED WITH THEFT FROM PBA

PATERSON, NEW JERSEY:

February 13, 2017

Passaic County Prosecutor Camelia M. Valdes and Passaic County Sheriff Richard H. Berdnik announce the arrest of Gwendolyn Broughton, age 53, of Paterson, New Jersey.

Gwendolyn Broughton was arrested without incident on February 13, 2017, at approximately 8:15 a.m., in Paterson, by members the Passaic County Prosecutor's Office. Ms. Broughton was charged on the same date by the Passaic County Prosecutor's Office with one count of third degree Theft in violation of N.J.S.A. 2C:20-3. A third degree Theft ranges from \$500 up to \$75,000, and carries a maximum term of five years in New Jersey State Prison. The charge was placed on a summons and no bail was required to be set.

During December 2011 through May 2016, the timeframe of the alleged theft, Ms. Broughton was employed as a corrections officer by the Passaic County Sheriff's Office. During periods within and beyond that timeframe, she also served as Treasurer for PBA Local #197, a union for officers employed by the Passaic County Sheriff's Office. As Treasurer, she had access to the PBA's accounts. Ms. Broughton allegedly used that access to make numerous unauthorized cash withdrawals from multiple accounts for her own personal gain. Ms. Broughton no longer serves as Treasurer and no longer has access to the PBA's accounts.

The investigation in this matter remains ongoing. At this time, further information will not be released so as not to jeopardize the safety of persons involved or to jeopardize the investigation in progress.

The Open Public Records Act and Executive Order #69 address the balancing required during ongoing investigations. Not all information regarding an arrest may be or should be released within 24 hours. In an ongoing investigation, the release of information is guided by concerns including victim safety, the integrity of the investigation, and harm to a bona fide law enforcement purpose or public safety. The release of information pertinent to public safety, and the timing of its release, are designed to minimize witness taint, encourage current and future

witness cooperation, protect the rights of criminal defendants or suspects, and engender trust with the public.

Media inquiries should be directed to Chief Assistant Prosecutor Mary Catherine Ryan at mryan@passaiccountynj.org. Any inquiries as to Ms. Broughton's employment status should be directed to the Passaic County Sheriff's Office.

The Passaic County Prosecutor's Office asks anyone with additional information about this incident to contact us on our tips line at 1-877-370-PCPO or tips@passaiccountynj.org.

A criminal complaint is merely an accusation. Despite this accusation, the defendant is presumed innocent unless and until proven guilty beyond a reasonable doubt.



Gwendolyn Broughton