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NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Paul J. McNulty, United States Attorney for the Eastern District of Virginia, announced that Tanikka Brooks, age 26, of Alexandria, Virginia, was sentenced today by the Honorable Claude M. Hilton, United States District Judge, to eight months incarceration and payment of restitution in the amount of \$20,698.10 for her theft of Social Security disability checks and other payments to indigent, homeless individuals over a period of two years.

Brooks worked as a receptionist at Community Family Life Services, Inc. (CFLS), an organization devoted to providing counseling services to indigent residents of Washington, D.C. The organization was located near a homeless shelter, and many residents had their Social Security checks, tax refunds and other payments delivered to CFLS as a convenience. These individuals, most of whom were physically disabled, relied upon these funds for their basic survival. Brooks intercepted these checks, endorsed them to herself, and deposited them into her bank account without the knowledge or consent of the intended individuals. Brooks used the funds to purchase a car and for other personal items.

This case was investigated by agents of the Social Security Administration, Office of Inspector General. Assistant United States Attorney Erik R. Barnett and Special Assistant United States Attorney Josh Jones handled the prosecution for the United States.

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