

United States Attorney Southern District of New York

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FORMER NEW YORK CITY EMPLOYEE AND TWO ASSOCIATES CHARGED WITH STEALING CREDIT CARD INFORMATION FROM CITY'S OFFICE OF VITAL RECORDS

LEV L. DASSIN, the Acting United States Attorney for the Southern District of New York, and ROSE GILL HEARN, the Commissioner of the New York City Department of Investigation, announced that EVELYNE MIRACLE, a former employee of the New York City Office of Vital Records, was arrested today for stealing credit card account information provided to the Office of Vital Records by individuals seeking certified copies of their birth certificates. Also charged with MIRACLE are JAZZREA MCRAE, who was also arrested today, and NATHANIEL ROBINSON, who remains at large.

As alleged in the Complaint filed today in Manhattan federal court:

The New York City Office of Vital Records is part of the New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene. The Office of Vital Records, among other things, issues certified copies of birth certificates for people born in New York City. A person born in New York City can obtain a copy of his or her birth certificate by submitting to the Office of Vital Records a form that includes both biographical data and credit card information to allow for the processing of a fee.

MIRACLE worked as a college aide at the Office of Vital Records's Manhattan office in February and March of 2009. On several occasions, at the initial suggestion of McRAE, MIRACLE stole credit card account information from forms that had been submitted by individuals requesting certified copies of their birth certificates from the Office of Vital Records. MIRACLE then provided that stolen information to ROBINSON, who had been introduced to MIRACLE by McRAE. The stolen credit card information was then used without authorization in an attempt to purchase thousands of dollars in goods and services.

MIRACLE, McRAE, and ROBINSON are each charged with one count of conspiracy to commit access device fraud. If convicted, each defendant faces a maximum sentence of five years in prison. McRAE was presented earlier today before United States Magistrate Judge KEVIN NATHANIEL FOX in Manhattan federal court. MIRACLE is expected to be presented later this evening.

Mr. DASSIN praised the investigative work of the New York City Department of Investigation.

The case is being prosecuted by the Office's Public Corruption Unit. Assistant United States Attorneys BRENT WIBLE and ZACHARY FEINGOLD are in charge of the prosecution.

The charges contained in the Complaint are merely accusations, and the defendants are presumed innocent unless and until proven guilty.

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