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**TWO NEW YORK CITY EMPLOYEES SENTENCED IN MANHATTAN  
FEDERAL COURT FOR THEFT OF VITAL RECORDS**

PREET BHARARA, the United States Attorney for the Southern District of New York, CHRISTOPHER PAUL, the Special-Agent-in-Charge of the New York Field Office of the U.S. Department of State, Bureau of Diplomatic Security Services ("DSS"), and ROSE GILL HEARN, the Commissioner of the New York City Department of Investigation ("DOI"), announced today the sentencing in Manhattan federal court of two former New York City employees for identification fraud. MICHAEL WILLS, a former employee of the New York City Human Resources Administration, ("HRA"), was sentenced to two years in prison for stealing copies of welfare recipients' birth certificates and social security cards and selling them to another individual. EDWARD JONES, a former employee of the New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, Bureau of Vital Statistics ("Bureau of Vital Statistics"), was sentenced to eight months in prison for stealing parental identification information from birth certificates and selling such information to another individual. Both individuals had previously pled guilty in Manhattan federal court.

According to statements made during the guilty plea and sentencing proceedings and documents filed in Manhattan federal court in this case:

WILLS worked for the HRA as a Clerical Associate in one of HRA's job centers that provides welfare benefits to New York City residents. In that position, WILLS had access to copies of welfare recipients' birth certificates and social security cards. During the guilty plea proceeding on March 2, 2010, WILLS admitted that, on numerous occasions in 2007 and 2008, he took copies of those birth certificates and social security cards and sold them to another individual. In addition to imposing a sentence of two years in prison, U.S. District Judge BARBARA S. JONES imposed a term of one year of supervised release.

EDWARD JONES worked for the Bureau of Vital Statistics as a Clerical Associate in its Corrections Unit where he processed corrections to birth certificates. During the guilty plea proceeding on June 16, 2010, before U.S. District Judge GEORGE B. DANIELS, EDWARD JONES admitted that, on numerous occasions in 2005 and continuing through 2008, he took the names of parents on those birth certificates and sold such names to another individual who he knew would use the parental information to fraudulently obtain birth certificates and other identification documents. In addition to imposing a prison sentence of eight months, Judge DANIELS imposed a term of two years' supervised release.

Manhattan U.S. Attorney PREET BHARARA stated: "Identity theft is especially troubling when perpetrated by government officials who breach sensitive, personal records. The sentencing of Edward Jones and Michael Wills sends a message both of deterrence to individuals who engage in identity theft and of reassurance to New Yorkers whose personal information is held by a City agency. We will continue to work with our partners at DDS and DOI to protect the records of innocent people and to fight corruption at every level of government."

"The Diplomatic Security Service is proud of its collaboration with the U.S. Attorney's Office and state and local law enforcement to investigate and bring to justice those who commit crimes involving identity theft," said DDS Special-Agent-in-Charge CHRISTOPHER PAUL. "When a public servant in a position of trust is alleged to have committed fraud, we vigorously investigate claims of corruption. We are grateful for our successful partnership with the U.S. Attorney and the Commissioner of the New York City Department of Investigation."

DOI Commissioner ROSE GILL HEARN said: "No one who provides personal information to a City agency should have to worry that it will be stolen. Any City employee foolish enough to trade on his or her access to that information will face

arrest and very possibly prison time, as these two ex-employees learned too late. DOI thanks our federal partners in this case - the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Southern District of New York and the State Department. We have also worked with the City agencies involved to strengthen their security of private information."

Mr. BHARARA praised the investigative work of DSS and DOI.

These cases are being prosecuted by the Office's Public Corruption Unit. Assistant U.S. Attorney CARRIE H. COHEN is in charge of the prosecutions.

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