

Department of Justice

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Western District of New York

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ROCHESTER WOMAN PLEADS GUILTY TO BANK FRAUD

ROCHESTER, N.Y.-- U.S. Attorney William J. Hochul, Jr. announced today that Brandi Harris, 33, of Rochester, NY, pleaded guilty before U.S. District Judge David G. Larimer, to bank fraud. The charge carries a maximum penalty of 30 years in prison, a fine of \$1,000,000, or both.

Assistant U.S. Attorney Tiffany H. Lee, who is handling the case, stated that in December 2010, the defendant produced counterfeit checks which displayed a real HSBC bank account number and gave those checks to other individuals to cash at various Wegmans stores in the Western District of New York. Harris pleaded guilty to bank fraud and aggravated identity theft involving similar conduct before Judge Larimer in November 2010 and was awaiting sentencing when she committed the new offense.

The plea is the culmination of an investigation on the part of Special Agents of the United States Secret Service, under the direction of Special Agent in Charge Tracy Gast, investigators from the Monroe County Sheriff's Office's Economic Crimes Unit under the direction of Sheriff Patrick O'Flynn, the Gates Police Department under the direction of Chief David DiCaro and the Greece Police Department under the direction of Chief Todd Baxter.

Sentencing is scheduled for July 20, 2011 at 2pm before Judge Larimer.

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