



Hernando County Sheriff's Office

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Media Release

From: Denise M. Moloney
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Re: Woman Arrested for Identity Theft

Date: January 5, 2016

On 08-14-15, Donna Lipidarov, the Branch Manager at a local Capital City Bank, notified Hernando County Sheriff's detectives that Julie Ryan had deposited several checks into her own account at the bank. The checks did not clear and had been written on a closed Region's Bank account, also in Julie Ryan's name.

Records at Capital City Bank revealed that Ryan lived in an apartment complex in Spring Hill. Also, the employees at Capital City Bank came to know Ryan, as she conducted business inside the bank on a regular basis over the course of a several month period.

During the investigation, Julie Ryan was identified as a current resident of Minnesota, not Spring Hill. Hernando County detectives requested Minnesota law enforcement officers to respond to the current address of Julie Ryan, where it was discovered that Julie had not been to Florida in many years and had never been to Hernando County. Julie advised detectives she never had a Capital City Bank or Regions Bank account.

Early in the investigation, contact was made with the management at Hibiscus Springs apartment complex, which is the address where Ryan was believed to be residing. Detectives learned that a person by the name of Julie Ryan had rented an apartment at the complex but had recently been evicted. The apartment was rented using personal identification information from Julie Ryan. During the eviction process, the name Angela Brown was discovered.

With help from Minnesota authorities, Hernando County detectives obtained possible identification information on Angela Brown.

Contact was then made with Julie Ryan in Minnesota (by telephone). Julie told Hernando County detectives that she knew of an Angela Brown. Near the end of 2014, Julie attempted to rent a house from Brown but the deal fell through. During that process, Brown requested

copies of Julie's Driver's License and Social Security Card, which were provided to her. Julie confirmed the identity of Brown, as provided by Minnesota authorities, as that of the person she tried to rent a house from.

Records obtained from Capital City Bank and Regions Bank confirmed that accounts at both banks were opened using Julie Ryan's identity. An additional SunTrust account was also identified. Detectives learned that Brown opened a Post Office Box and a utilities account using Ryan's personal identification information. The bank accounts were used by the suspect on a daily basis for miscellaneous purchases and to utter fraudulent checks between banks.

Video evidence was obtained from several banks depicting Brown opening the accounts and conducting numerous fraudulent transactions. The surveillance was consistent with the identification of Angela Brown as provided by Minnesota authorities. Numerous witnesses positively identified Angela Brown as the individual portraying herself as Julie Ryan and subsequently conducting business within Hernando County as such.

At the conclusion of the investigation it was determined that Angela Brown was residing in Hernando County, living an alternate life under the stolen identity of Julie Ryan for approximately eight months. Probable cause was established for Brown's arrest and a warrant was obtained on 10-29-15.

Once the warrant was obtained, information was received that Brown fled back to Minnesota. Nationwide extradition was authorized with the assistance of Hennepin County Sheriff's Office in Minnesota.

On 11-20-15, Brown was located and arrested on the Hernando County warrant.

On 01-04-16, Brown was delivered to the Hernando County Detention Center. She is charged as follows:

Angela Marie Brown W/F DOB/02-01-1979

- Criminal Use of Personal Identification Information (5 counts)
- Forgery (16 counts)
- Uttering a Forged Check (16 counts)
- Organized Fraud – Less than \$20,000
 - Bond - \$84,000.

The investigation continues, as additional accounts opened by Brown in Julie Ryan's name are still being identified.