



Media Alert

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BENNY N. NAPOLEON
Sheriff

For immediate release

Wayne State employee charged with creating hundreds of false auto insurance policies for drivers throughout metro Detroit

(Oct. 3, 2013) Detroit -- For hundreds of metro Detroit motorists, the opportunity to purchase full auto insurance coverage with a small downpayment and small monthly payments seemed too good to be true.

Turns out, it was.

Timmica Morton, a Wayne State University employee in the environmental health department, was charged this week with selling more than 300 false Ameriprise auto insurance policies to drivers, primarily from Detroit. She is in the Wayne County Jail.

Morton, 40, is accused of using Wayne State University computers to access insurance policy applications and create false banking information for more than 300 insurance applications. She allegedly collected fees ranging from \$30 to \$300 from the buyers, police said.

The Wayne County Sheriff's Office and an Ameriprise investigator began an investigation after Ameriprise officials noticed a spike in new policies with false banking information from May to July of this year.

Morton of Detroit was charged with four felonies –use of computers to commit a crime; possession and sale of stolen/counterfeit certificate of insurance; false pretenses with intent to defraud or cheat, and fraudulent acts involving insurance. She also was charged as a habitual offender (second offense).

“We’re tired of good citizens being victimized by crime,” said Wayne County Sheriff Benny N. Napoleon. “In this case, a lot of people were scammed. Fortunately, with some good police work we were able to stop this scam from spreading.”

In addition to Detroit motorists, drivers from Oak Park, Lincoln Park, Dearborn Heights, West Bloomfield, Grosse Pointe and Highland Park also purchased fraudulent policies, police said.

One woman told police she paid \$175 as a downpayment for a policy for her son that was to include monthly payments not to exceed \$200. When the policy arrived, the first payment was for \$800 and the banking information used to obtain the policy wasn't accurate, the woman told police.

Morton accepted cash payments for the policies, police said. The business was mostly generated by word of mouth and email.

Morton was arrested this week at the Wayne County Sheriff's Office headquarters. Ira Todd of the sheriff's Special Assignment Task Force and insurance Investigator David Adamczyk spearheaded the investigation with the assistance of Detroit and Wayne State University Police.

She was arraigned Tuesday with bond set at 10 percent of \$50,000.

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