

Burlington County Prosecutor's Office

NEWS RELEASE



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FORMER BANK TELLER INDICTED FOR STEALING FROM CUSTOMER'S ACCOUNT *The "victim" was also indicted, for filing false tax returns and receiving \$545k return from State*

MOUNT HOLLY, N.J. - Burlington County Prosecutor Robert D. Bernardi announced today that a former Willingboro bank teller was indicted for stealing nearly \$100,000 from a customer's account by making a duplicate debit card and illegally accessing the funds over a two-year period.

The "victim" in this case - the customer whose account suffered the loss of funds - was indicted as well, for filing several fraudulent tax returns in 2008 that resulted in a \$545,000 refund from the New Jersey Treasury Department.

The teller, Lisa Jarvis, age 32, of 1780 Graves Road in Norcross, Georgia, was indicted on one count of Theft By Deception (Second Degree) one count of Elements of Computer Theft (Second Degree) one count of Elements of Computer Theft (Third Degree), two counts of Failure to Pay or Turn Over Taxes, Penalties or Interest with Intent to Evade, Avoid, or Not Make timely Payments or Deposits (Third Degree) and one count of Filing or Preparing False or Fraudulent Returns, Reports, Statements, or Applications with Intent to Evade, Avoid or not Make Timely Payments (Third Degree). Jarvis is a former resident of Willingboro

The investigation revealed that Kenneth Costello filed four fraudulent tax returns for the 2008 tax year, resulting in a refund from the State of New Jersey in the amount of \$545,384.59.

Costello, age 49, formerly of 5 Bloomfield Lane in Willingboro, eventually diverted the funds to multiple financial institutions. He purchased a \$40,000 vehicle and used some of the money for living expenses. He was indicted for Financial Facilitation of Criminal Activity, or money laundering (First Degree), Theft by Deception (Second Degree), four counts of Filing or Preparing False or Fraudulent Returns, Reports, Statements, or Applications with Intent to Evade, Avoid or not Make Timely Payments (Third Degree), Elements of Computer Theft (Second Degree), Elements of Computer Theft (Third Degree), and Criminal Attempt, Theft by Deception (Second Degree).

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The investigation revealed that Jarvis was a teller at the TD Bank on Levitt Parkway in Willingboro when Costello opened an account in November 2009. In addition to the debit card made for Costello, Jarvis made one for herself, which gave her access to the funds Costello had placed in the new account by depositing the tax refund check. Costello attempted to file an additional return that would have yielded an additional refund of \$228,000 but it was denied by the Treasury Department.

Over the next two years, Jarvis used the debit card to withdraw \$98,445 from the account. The investigation began after Costello told bank officials and township police about suspicious transactions on his account.

The indictments were returned June 21. Arraignments will be scheduled soon in Superior Court. Jarvis is free on \$5,000 bail. The case against Costello was presented directly to the Grand Jury. He will be taken into custody in the near future.

The investigation was conducted by the New Jersey Treasury Department, Division of Taxation, Office of Criminal Investigations, the Burlington County Prosecutor's Office Financial Crimes Unit and the Willingboro Police Department.

An indictment is merely an accusation. Defendants are presumed innocent unless or until proven guilty.

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