



NEWS RELEASE

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Contact: [Aaron Snell](#), Community Information Officer, Media Line: 425-257-7444

Charges referred in PTA fraud

EVERETT – Financial Crimes detectives conclude their investigation into the Hawthorne Elementary PTA and refer charges to the Prosecutor’s Office.

On May 3rd, the PTA reported an internal audit revealed approximately \$10,000 missing. Members of the PTA believed the President, a 28 year-old Mount Vernon woman, had been misappropriating money for almost a year and the issue came to light when a check was returned for insufficient funds.

During the course of the investigation, detectives found the President often reported purchasing items for the PTA, but never produced the product. Many of the checks had generic memo comments referencing items or activities that turned out to be completely false.

Based on the investigation, charges have been referred to the Prosecutor’s Office for theft 1, identity theft 1, 11 counts of identity theft 2 and 22 counts of forgery. After their review, the Prosecutor will decide on specific charges.

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