



NEWS RELEASE

OCEAN CITY POLICE DEPARTMENT

OCEAN CITY, MARYLAND



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For Immediate Release:

INDIVIDUAL CHARGED WITH FRAUD

The Ocean City Police Department recently concluded a 6 month fraud investigation involving an individual who was contracted by the Town of Ocean City to perform sign language at special events.

The individual identified as Gail S. Garner, 51-years old, of Greenwood, Delaware, was charged with felony theft scheme and theft under \$500 after detectives determined that Garner sent numerous fictitious requests to The Town of Ocean City's Recreation and Parks Department, requesting a sign language specialist to sign for various Town sponsored special events.

Part of Garner's scheme was to send fraudulent requests to the Ocean City Recreation and Parks Department, via email, posing as different persons requesting that sign language be provided for certain event. Garner did this by using various names and email addresses. Investigators believe Garner was creating a need for a sign language specialist for the purposes of defrauding the city and being financially compensated for her services.



Gail S. Garner

After Ocean City Recreation and Parks Department began receiving these initial requests in 2000, the city hired Garner and used her on several occasions to perform sign language at special events. During 2008, police investigators determined that the email requests were received by the city were actually sent by Garner and that Garner defrauded the Town of Ocean City out of approximately \$1300.

During the investigation, OCPD investigators determined Garner has also been involved in providing sign language specialist services to Wicomico Youth and Civic Center, Dover Downs, Midway Slots Delaware State Fair.

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CC#2008008081

Quite often, citizens' hunches turn out to be valuable information to us. If you have information that you feel we should know, we encourage you to leave us e-mail. OCPD@ococean.com