



DenverDA

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NEWS RELEASE

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CHARGES FILED IN MAJOR EMPLOYEE THEFT

Denver District Attorney Mitch Morrissey has formally charged five people in connection with a series of thefts that resulted in \$350,000 in losses to a local retailer.

Edward James Stanley (dob: 08-10-82) is charged with two counts of *theft* (F3, F4) and one count each of *forgery* (F4) and *criminal conspiracy* (F4).

Heather Ann Wilson (dob: 09-13-79) and **Shannon Latriesa Blackwell** (dob: 12-10-70) are each charged with *theft* (F3) and *criminal conspiracy* (F4).

Rashanda Payton (dob: 10-01-82) and **Jeanette McGaughy** (dob: 03-19-60) are each charged with *theft* (F3 and F4) and *fraud by check* (F6).

The charges allege that Wilson and Blackwell worked for Wal-Mart in the "cash room" where money and checks are handled for the store. During a five month period, Wilson and Blackwell allegedly received checks from Stanley, Payton and McGaughy which were known to be stolen checks or were their own checks with insufficient funds. The cash was then divided among the participants, with a total loss of \$350,000 or more to Wal-Mart.

All five defendants have been released from custody on bond and are scheduled to appear in Denver County Court next week to be formally advised of the charges.

-30-

The filing of a criminal charge is merely a formal accusation that an individual(s) committed a crime(s) under Colorado laws. A defendant is presumed innocent until and unless proven guilty. *See* Colo. RPC 3.6