



NEWS RELEASE

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EAST COAST ID THIEF CHARGED IN DENVER

Denver District Attorney Mitch Morrissey has formally charged a South Carolina woman with identity theft; the result of a 5-month long investigation by the Colorado Bureau of Investigation's Fraud Investigators Unit.

Shonya Young (dob: 02-13-71) was charged earlier in November with three counts of *theft* (F4), three counts of *forgery* (F5) and two counts of *identity theft* (F4). The charges allege that Young used stolen checks to steal money from accounts at local banks, with losses estimated at about \$13,000.

Young is currently awaiting sentencing on federal charges. She was part of a two-year long investigation by the U.S. Postal Service into an identity theft ring in the Washington D.C. area whose victims included the wife of Federal Reserve Chairman Ben Bernanke. His wife was victimized after her purse was stolen from a coffee shop last year.

The victim in the current case, who is from South Dakota, had her purse and checkbook stolen while attending a sporting event in Minneapolis in 2007. The checks weren't used until this year, long after a 6-month fraud alert that had been put on the account expired.

During the course of the investigation, the Colorado Bureau of Investigation identified two separate identity theft rings scamming banks and customers; one was operating out of Washington D.C. and the other was operating out of California. Both were targeting Colorado financial institutions.

An arrest warrant has been issued for Young, who remains in federal custody at this time.