



DenverDA

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NEWS RELEASE

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THREE CHARGED IN THEFT FROM COLORADO HOUSING AND FINANCE AUTHORITY

Denver District Attorney Mitch Morrissey has formally charged three people in connection with the theft of tens of thousands of dollars from the Colorado Housing and Finance Authority. The charges were filed earlier this week and are the result of an investigation by the Denver DA's Office conducted cooperatively with CHFA.

Melissa Leeann DeHerrera (10-21-77), **Zarak Tyron Shepard** (09-02-65) and **Scheherazade Donya Yvette Marshall** (04-08-77) are each charged with *theft* (F3), *forgery* (F5), *computer crime* (F3), *conspiracy to commit theft* (F4), *conspiracy to commit forgery* (F6) and *conspiracy to commit computer crime* (F4).

The charges allege that in March and April of this year DeHerrera, a former CHFA employee, manipulated the CHFA computer system and stole nearly \$250,000 from the agency. The charges further allege that DeHerrera conspired with two others, Shepard and Marshall, to steal the money and use it for their personal benefit.

Shepard and Marshall were arrested in Aurora yesterday and remain in custody. An arrest warrant has been issued for DeHerrera, who is expected to surrender in the next few days. Bond has been set at \$100,000 for each defendant. Their next court appearances have not yet been scheduled.

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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

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