




Memorandum



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To: The Honorable Carlos A. Gimenez, Mayor, Miami-Dade County
The Honorable Esteban L. Bovo, Jr., Chairman
and Members, Board of County Commissioners, Miami-Dade County

From: Mary T. Cagle, Inspector General 

Date: June 11, 2018

Subject: MDAD Employee Arrested for ATM Card Theft – Ref. IG17-0015-I

An OIG investigation concluded today with the arrest of an MDAD employee. The employee stole another County employee's ATM/debit card and attempted—unsuccessfully—to make an ATM withdrawal. The card was then used to obtain property from area businesses. The MDAD employee was identified as Marie Wagnac-Ricks. Ms. Wagnac-Ricks is a uniformed Public Service Assistant at Miami International Airport (MIA). She has worked for Miami-Dade County for over 28 years. She is assigned to Terminal Operations and is stationed at the Information Center of MIA.

The OIG joint investigation with the Miami-Dade State Attorney's Office (SAO) stemmed from a referral from the Dade County Federal Credit Union (DCFCU). A DCFCU customer complained that he had mistakenly left his ATM card in a branch drive-up ATM machine, after becoming distracted by a phone call. He reported that his missing card was then used without his permission by unknown persons. The bank pulled the ATM video surveillance tape. According to the video surveillance, a woman wearing a Miami International Airport uniform shirt drove up to the ATM machine where the previous customer had mistakenly left his ATM/credit card. The woman unsuccessfully attempted to withdraw \$400.00 using the other customer's card. After a third attempt, the woman then immediately used her own ATM card and successfully withdrew \$400 from her own account. She drove away with the other customer's card. Two persons were backseat passengers during the crime.

Within the hour, the stolen card was used to purchase a meal at an area Chick-Fil-A. It was also used to purchase a gift card at an area Walmart. Walmart surveillance revealed that one of the two persons conducting the gift card purchase was wearing clothes similar to one of the backseat passengers. Later investigative efforts identified the woman, wearing the MIA uniform, as Marie Wagnac-Ricks. When OIG special agents interviewed Ms. Wagnac-Ricks and asked her to identify her backseat passengers, she stated that she could not recall.

Based upon the ATM surveillance tape, bank withdrawal records, vehicle tag registration and other information, a judge found probable cause to believe that Ms. Wagnac-Ricks committed grand theft, and a warrant was issued for her arrest. On today's date, Ms. Wagnac-Ricks surrendered to authorities. Attached is a SAO press release with additional details about the case.

The OIG appreciates the assistance of MDAD and DCFCU during this investigation.

Attachment

cc: Lester Sola, Director, MDAD
Arleene Cuellar, Director, Human Resources Department
Alex Ferro, Chief of Staff, Office of the Mayor
Cathy Jackson, Interim Commission Auditor and Director,
Audit and Management Services Department
Robert Plasencia, VP of Fraud and Compliance, Dade County Federal Credit Union



**KATHERINE FERNANDEZ RUNDLE
STATE ATTORNEY**

**ELEVENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
IN AND FOR MIAMI-DADE COUNTY**



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ATM Debit/Credit Card Grab Results in Airport Employee's Arrest

Miami (June 11, 2018) - A joint investigation involving the Miami-Dade State Attorney's Office and the Miami-Dade County Office of the Inspector General has led to the arrest of Miami-Dade Aviation Department (MDAD) employee Marie Wagnac-Ricks after she allegedly used someone else's debit/credit card, which the owner had inadvertently left behind in a Dade County Federal Credit Union (DCFCU) ATM machine on January 20, 2017.

Marie Wagnac-Ricks is a 28 year Miami-Dade County employee presently working as a uniformed Public Service Assistant at Miami International Airport (MIA).

The card's owner, a Miami-Dade County Corrections Officer, reported to DCFCU the misuse of his card to make \$210.26 of purchases at Wal-Mart and Chik-Fil-A. DCFCU referred the matter to the Miami-Dade County Office of the Inspector General (OIG) after their initial review indicated that the individual in possession of the debit/credit card was a Miami-Dade County employee.

The criminal investigation of this matter led to a review of the DCFCU Miami Gardens Branch ATM video and its derived still shots, which appeared to depict of Ms. Wagnac-Ricks in her Miami International Airport (MIA) uniform shirt with an MIA patch on the sleeve attempting three times to use the debit card at the DCFCU ATM. Ms. Wagnac-Ricks is the first person after the debit/credit card's owner who stops to use the ATM machine. The materials also show Ms. Wagnac-Ricks wearing glasses and driving a white KIA four-door sedan bearing Georgia tag PCQ6244, which she later identified as her daughter's car that Ms. Wagnac-Ricks was using.

Marie Wagnac-Ricks is being charged with 1 count of Grand Theft, a 3rd degree felony.

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