



## Charleston County News Release

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### **County employee arrested, terminated for forgery and embezzlement of public funds**

On Thursday, September 12, the S.C. Law Enforcement Division (SLED) arrested Terrie Mobley, a 15 year customer service representative with Charleston County's Revenue Collections Department, and charged her with forgery and embezzlement of public funds. Following an internal investigation, Mobley was terminated by Charleston County Government earlier this week.

The Revenue Collections Department closely monitors deposits and recently determined that several checks had not been deposited during a four month period this year, although internal documents had been altered to show that they had. The department requested the County's Internal Auditor conduct an investigation, which confirmed that \$8,583.53 in cash and a number of checks were missing from revenue collections deposits. The investigation was then turned over to the Charleston County Sheriff's Office and SLED.

"The proper handling of public funds is crucial to the County's everyday business," said Charleston County Administrator Kurt Taylor. "Theft of public funds will continue to be dealt with in the strongest possible manner. We have already strengthened our internal procedures to prevent this from happening in the future. Full restitution will be sought from this employee and other actions will be left up to the Solicitor's Office and the courts," Taylor said.

All of the missing checks have been recovered. The County will contact each business or individual from which a check was mishandled and arrange for proper deposit. "No business or person has been penalized due to the missing payments, and the County will pay any costs of reissuance of the checks and then seek these costs as additional restitution from the employee," said Taylor

The County's Revenue Collections Department collects revenues totaling more than \$59 million per year in the form of fees for accommodations, business licenses, solid waste disposal and hazardous material services. This Department also collects delinquent taxes and fees and maintains bankruptcy files.