

**GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA**  
**Office of the Inspector General**

Inspector General



January 19, 2012

The Honorable Vincent C. Gray  
Mayor  
District of Columbia  
1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.  
Mayor's Correspondence Unit, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, Suite 316  
Washington, D.C. 20004

**RE: SIGNIFICANT ACTIVITY REPORT**

Dear Mayor Gray:

This report is to inform you of the recent sentencing by a U.S. District Court judge of Dionne Witherspoon, a former District government employee, and Renarda Miller, a member of the public, who created and organized a multi-state identity theft ring that operated in the District of Columbia.

On October 4, 2011, Dionne Witherspoon was sentenced to 78 months of incarceration, payment of \$92,720 in restitution, and 3 years of supervised release. Ms. Witherspoon previously was arrested and convicted, after investigation by this Office, for welfare fraud and for using fraudulent District documents to obtain Section 8 housing.

On December 16, 2011, Renarda Miller was sentenced to 97 months of incarceration, payment of \$92,720 in restitution, and 3 years of supervised release. In addition, Ms. Miller was ordered to forfeit \$88,855.70. Previously, nine other co-conspirators and participants were convicted and sentenced for their roles in this identity theft fraud ring.

Special Agent Bernadette Atwater of the D.C. Office of the Inspector General and investigators from the U.S. Postal Inspection Service and U.S. Secret Service conducted the investigation. The investigation revealed that from 2006 to 2010, Ms. Witherspoon and Ms. Miller stole identifying information and obtained lines of credit in the names of at least 176 victims, including individuals and companies. Ms. Witherspoon and Ms. Miller then used these lines of credit and/or accessed victims' existing bank accounts to purchase merchandise, pay bills, and pay D.C. parking tickets. The scheme, which involved at least 765 transactions, resulted in approximately \$1,446,805 in fraudulently obtained lines of credit and charges to those lines of credit totaling \$92,720.

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If you need any additional information, please call me or Stacie Pittell, Assistant Inspector General for Investigations, at (202) 727-2540. When calling, please reference OIG Control Number 2006-0403.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Charles J. Willoughby". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping underline.

Charles J. Willoughby  
Inspector General

CJW/bta