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Former LAUSD Clerk Charged with Embezzling from Metro

- Inspector General’s investigation exposes \$10,000 fraud against Rideshare Rewards Program

(Jan. 19, 2006) A former Los Angeles Unified School District clerk is scheduled to appear in Superior Court, Feb. 9, on charges that she embezzled more than \$10,000 from Metro’s Rideshare Rewards Program in 2003 and 2004.

Carol Scott, who worked at City of Angels School in Los Angeles during the time she allegedly defrauded Metro, entered a not guilty plea during a Superior Court arraignment, Jan. 12, to one felony count of embezzlement and one felony count of grand theft.

Senior Investigator Ray Rust of the Inspector General’s Office alleged in a court filing that, over a 14-month period, Scott submitted at least 179 fraudulent Rideshare Rewards claims forms to Metro in order to receive Ralphs Grocery Card Gift certificates.

The OIG was alerted to the alleged fraud by a Metro Commute Services account executive.

According to Rust’s investigation, Scott forged the signatures of former students or parents or used their Social Security numbers, drivers licenses or other identification to claim the grocery gift certificates. As a clerk at the school, she had access to computer records and files of City of Angels students.

Scott also allegedly forged the signatures of people who were not LAUSD employees, filed fictitious claims and enlisted others – including a former LAUSD cafeteria worker and even her own daughter – to file fraudulent claims for gift certificates. Most never received the certificates.

Although she knew her alleged initiatives were fraudulent, Scott attended a Rideshare Diamond Awards luncheon in May 2004 and accepted an award for promoting the rideshare program at City of Angels School.