



Division of Capitol Police News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Oct. 16, 2018

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

Joe Macenka, Public Information Officer

Division of Capitol Police

Office: 804-786-2522

Cell: 804-382-7447

Email: jmacenka@dcp.virginia.gov

Capitol Police get conviction in fraud case

RICHMOND – An investigation by the Virginia Division of Capitol Police has led to the conviction of a woman on felony charges she fraudulently obtained nearly \$30,000 while working as a state government contractor.

Latoya S. Cook, 35, of Glen Allen, entered guilty pleas Tuesday in Henrico County Circuit Court to two counts of obtaining money by false pretenses. Each of the Class 4 felonies is punishable by up to 10 years in prison.

Cook, who is to be sentenced Jan. 29, 2019, also agreed to make restitution of \$29,590.06 to Ampcus Inc., a Chantilly, Va.-based contractor for the Virginia Housing Development Authority.

In return for Cook's guilty pleas, prosecutors dropped five related charges.

The Capitol Police investigation was led by Special Agents J.M. Jones and J.L. Cosby Jr.

"I want to thank our investigators and the Henrico County Commonwealth's Attorney's Office for their work in safeguarding the assets of the commonwealth," said Col. Anthony S. Pike, chief of the Capitol Police.

Officials with the housing authority told Capitol Police that from July 2016 to March 2017, Ampcus had been billing VHDA for work performed by Cook, and VHDA had in turn been paying Ampcus for it.

Cook, however, had been let go from her position on June 30, 2016. Cook's time sheets from July 2016 to March 2017 appeared to have the signature of her immediate supervisor, but Capitol Police investigators determined the time sheets and signatures were forgeries.

While VHDA did not suffer a direct financial loss from the actions, the losses were incurred by Ampcus, a vendor participating in the state's program for small, women-owned and minority businesses.

Cook was arrested July 2 after being indicted by a Henrico County grand jury.



###