

COLUMBIA COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

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Press Release

SHERIFF DAVID W. HARRISON JR.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DATE: August 23, 2012

SHERIFF'S OFFICE ARRESTS FOUR ON WELFARE FRAUD

Hudson, NY – Columbia County Sheriff David Harrison, Jr. reports that on Wednesday, August 22nd at 7:23am, four individuals were arrested and charged with crimes associated with Welfare Fraud. Investigator Rivero, who is assigned to the Columbia County Welfare Fraud Task Force, began an investigation in March which resulted in the arrest of 51 year old Anthony J. Palermo of Earlton, NY, 44 year old Timothy James Hines of State Route 66 Ghent, 28 year old Sandra Bourque of Lowell Street Albany and 32 year old Balynda P. Curry of South Front Street Hudson.

The four defendants were arrested and charged by Investigator John Rivero and Deputy Sheriff's Peter Grzeskow and Stephen Hoffman. The four individuals are charged with collectively stealing in excess of \$16,300.00. Palermo stole \$1,854.83; Hines stole \$8,148.21, Curry - \$3,046.00 and Bourque's total was \$2,104.00.

Bourque was charged with Grand Larceny 4th degree, Welfare Fraud 4th degree and Offering a False Written Statement for Filing 1st degree, Curry was charged with Grand Larceny 3rd degree, Welfare Fraud 3rd degree and Offering a False Written Statement for Filing, Hines was charged with Grand Larceny 3rd and 4th degrees and Welfare Fraud 3rd and 4th degree and Palermo was charged with Offering to File a False Written Statement 1st degree, Grand Larceny 4th degree and Welfare Fraud 4th degree.

The four defendants were arraigned in the Hudson City Court, and Released on their Own Recognizance (ROR'd) and ordered to return to city court at a later date.

During the investigation, Investigator Rivero uncovered information that Palermo was also engaged in Welfare Fraud in Greene County. That information was relayed to Greene County Department of Social Services Investigators and resulted in charges in that county. At the conclusion of Palermo's arraignment in Hudson City court, Investigator Rivero arrested him pursuant to a state police warrant from SP Catskill in connection with that welfare fraud case in Greene County. Palermo was turned over to state police officials in Greene County without incident.

The Columbia County Department of Social Services and Columbia County District Attorney Paul Czjaka's Office assisted with the investigation.

If anyone has information of, or suspects anyone committing welfare fraud please call the Sheriff's Office Crimes Tips Line, 822-8477.