



CITY OF EDMONDS

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POLICE DEPARTMENT • AN ACCREDITED LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCY

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PRESS RELEASE

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NEWS RELEASE #1

Date: September 4, 2015

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Woman Arrested for Identity Theft of Former Landlord

For the last two years, a 70 year old Edmonds woman has been the victim of identity theft at the hands of her former tenant and roommate. This was discovered recently when the victim received a call from a collection agency for an account she had never opened. She realized she had also previously received a fraudulent credit card but had thrown it away. After contacting the Edmonds Police Department and obtaining a copy of her credit report, it became apparent that this had been going on for at least two years.

The suspect, a 57 year old Seattle woman had rented a room from the victim. It is believed that she compromised her identity during that time. She opened a checking account in the victim's name, using it to filter checks through from her dry cleaning business in Kingston. After checking further into that business, the woman has no business license in the State of Washington. A \$25,000 American Express credit card balance was located under victim's name, as well as a \$4,500 small business loan from out of state.

The woman was caught on ATM video cashing checks through the fraudulent bank account. She was arrested on the morning of September 2nd, 2015 aboard the ferry from Edmonds to Kingston. She would not provide any statements to investigators. The suspect was booked into the Snohomish County Jail for Identity Theft, an additional 1st Degree Theft charge and an outstanding felony warrant.

This appears to be an isolated incident, with only the former landlord being targeted. The case is being forwarded to the State regarding the potential business license violation.

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