



News from the Shelby County Sheriff's Office

Mark H. Luttrell, Jr., Sheriff

9th Floor, 201 Poplar Avenue, Memphis, Tennessee 38103

Public Information Officer: Steve Shular

- Office (901) 545-5532 FAX (901) 545-3310
- E mail: steve.shular@shelby-sheriff.org

All news releases may be viewed at www.shelby-sheriff.org in the **News Releases Listing**

July 28, 2009

Sheriff's Office Employee Charged With Theft and Official Misconduct



A clerk from an administrative bureau at the Shelby County Sheriff's Office was arrested today for allegedly stealing thousands of dollars from an office account and official misconduct. Sammetta Tennial, 37, was taken into custody by Sheriff's Deputies about 1 p.m. today at her 10th floor office at the Criminal Justice Center.

Tennial works in the Sheriff's Office Bureau of Commissions and Compliance. The bureau handles a variety of duties including the issuing of Special Deputy Commissions, the registration of convicted sex offenders, bail bond employees, private process servers who deliver court papers and tracks Sheriff's Deputies who work additional jobs outside the Sheriff's Office.

Fees are required by some of those who register at the office. A supervisor discovered money missing while reconciling the daily receipts and deposits. Detectives from the Sheriff's General Investigation Bureau and White Collar Crimes Bureau from the Shelby County District Attorney General's Office led the investigation.

"Once aware of the discrepancy, an investigation began immediately. Let this be a message to all employees the net is always out. Those who choose to break the law will be held accountable," said Shelby County Sheriff Mark H. Luttrell, Jr.

Detectives believe Tennial took small amounts of money over the past two years totaling as much as \$6,000. Investigators believe she acted alone in the scheme. Tennial has been a clerk with the Sheriff's Office since 2000. She's was assigned to the Commissions and Compliance Bureau in 2005.

Sammetta Tennial was indicted today by the Shelby County Grand Jury for Theft of Property over \$1,000 and two counts of Official Misconduct. She is being held at the Shelby County Jail facility for women on a \$10,000 bond.

(End of Release)