



THE CITY OF SAN DIEGO

NEWS RELEASE

San Diego Police Department

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FINANCIAL CRIMES SUSPECT ARRESTED

(San Diego) San Diego Police Department Economic Crimes Unit announces the arrest of 23-year-old Elizabeth Cowie for a variety of financial crimes.

Cowie is a former US Marine and many of her victims are marines. She was arrested on the morning of May 20, 2009 outside of her Oceanside apartment. Her bail was originally set at more than \$2 million but has since been reduced to \$300,000. Cowie is incarcerated at Las Colinas.

Here is a synopsis of some of Cowie's financial crimes:

- Knowingly passed 74 checks drawn from closed and non-sufficiently funded accounts to a variety of individuals and businesses
- Stole her friend's wallet and used her friend's credit card without permission
- Accessed a friend's social security number and his USMC account code for his financial institution – she then transferred more than \$1600 into her husband's account causing a loss from the victim's account
- Deposited two checks totaling more than \$11,000 into an account belonging to a friend. The friend then wired \$10,000 to her via Western Union. The friend then discovered that the checks Cowie wrote were bad because she didn't have the funds in her account to cover them. (Cowie performed this action several times victimizing several of her acquaintances)
- Wrote seven bad checks totaling more than \$81,000 to a business in Escondido

Cowie's charges include: petty theft 484A PC; 41 counts of forgery 470(A) PC; 74 counts of NSF checks; six counts of burglary 459PC; five counts of obtaining funds under false pretenses 532(a) PC; unauthorized use of someone's identification 530.5 PC; and using a credit card or access card with the intent to defraud 484g PC.

Anyone who believes they may be a victim of Cowie is asked to contact San Diego Police Department Economic Crimes Unit at (619) 531-2545.

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