



CURTIS W. McCOY
MAYOR

Mansfield Police Department

P.O. Drawer 565
Mansfield, Louisiana 71052
318-872-0520



GARY HOBBS
CHIEF OF POLICE

For Immediate Release

Re: District Attorney's Office Employee Arrested

On Tuesday- February 25, 2014 Mansfield Police Arrested Melanie Barber, 32 year old white female of Converse, charging her with Malfeasance in Office, Monetary Instrument Abuse and Filing or Maintaining False Public Records. Barber has been an employee of the DeSoto Parish District Attorney's Office for the past 12 years and was responsible for handing the worthless check division as well as fees collected through the diversion program. The arrest comes as a result of a month long investigation initiated by the Police Department after being contacted by the District Attorney's Office regarding the possible misuse of funds. Information obtained during the investigation revealed that Barber had been collecting money orders for fees and penalties and then cashing the money orders at a local business. The arrest pertains to three separate money orders that were cashed within the past month totaling approx. \$500. Based on information uncovered during the investigation it is believed that this activity has been going on for several years. Mansfield Police will continue their investigation with the assistance of Internal Auditors familiar with the system used by the D.A.'s Office.



Gary Hobbs

Chief of Police

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mansfieldpd@cmaaccess.com

To Protect and Serve