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## **NASSAU BAY POLICE SERGEANT CHARGED WITH THEFT AND TAMPERING**

The Harris County District Attorney's Office has conducted an investigation into improprieties regarding the handling and transporting of evidence at the Nassau Bay Police Department. Theresa Relken, formerly a sergeant at the NBPD, was charged with tampering with evidence and theft by a public servant Monday.

The theft complaint alleges that Relken stole \$500 from the property room, an area that she was responsible for managing. The tampering case alleges that Relken altered, destroyed, or concealed various pills that were seized in an investigation done by a fellow NBPD officer.

In November, a District Attorney's Office intern assigned to the Grand Jury Division discovered that certain prescription drugs had never been sent to the Institute of Forensic Sciences for analysis on a felony case. The Nassau Bay Police were contacted regarding the discrepancy, and the pills were traced back to Relken. In an audit of the Nassau Bay Police Department Property Room, it was discovered that there were shortages in the expected inventories of prescription drugs that should have been in the property room.

If convicted of the offenses, Relken faces up to ten years in prison and up to a \$10,000 fine on the tampering case and six months to two years in the state jail and up to a \$10,000 fine on the theft charge.

Assistant District Attorney Tiffany Dupree and investigators from the Public Integrity Division conducted the investigation.

A court date is expected to be set later this week.

The District Attorney's Office notified the Harris County Public Defender's Office and the Harris County Criminal Lawyers Association when the investigation began. It is anticipated that the District Attorney's Post Conviction Review Section will notify all defendants impacted by this investigation.

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