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Woman sentenced to prison after stealing \$167,240 from family-owned restaurant

Today, Multnomah County District Attorney Rod Underhill announced that 41-year-old Keeya Danielle Deshazo received a one year and five month prison sentence following a white collar crimes investigation conducted by the Multnomah County Sheriff's Office.

On September 7, 2018, the defendant pleaded guilty to three counts of theft in the first degree. Sentencing was set over so the defendant could start preparing restitution payments.

This investigation started in April 2016 when law enforcement received a report of missing funds from the La Costita Restaurant in Troutdale, Oregon.

During the investigation, law enforcement learned that the restaurant suffered a total loss of \$167,240. Detectives determined that the defendant, a former employee, took cash that should have been deposited into the restaurant's bank account and placed those funds in her own private bank account. Investigators believe the theft of funds occurred for at least a year between 2015 and 2016.

Detectives recovered evidence during this investigation that showed Deshazo kept deposit slips as "IOUs" for the restaurant. Law enforcement determined Deshazo had a gambling problem.

"Addiction can have terrible consequences and this is a good example of that," Judge Gregory Silver said during sentencing.

Deshazo was sentenced on January 11, 2019 and surrendered a \$10,000 check for La Costita Restaurant. In addition to her prison sentence, Deshazo was ordered to repay the remaining balance of \$157,240.

"The amount of money Keeya Deshazo stole from La Costita Restaurant had an enormous impact on this family-owned business," Multnomah County Deputy District Attorney Sam Leineweber, who prosecuted this case, said after sentencing. "The restaurant will feel the impacts of this theft for years to come."

The Multnomah County District Attorney's Office encourages all businesses to take steps to protect themselves from financial theft. It is important that businesses have redundancies in place to ensure proper accounting for cash, checks and credit/debit card transactions. All businesses should undergo routine financial audits that are conducted by a person or organization separate from the primary accountant. If employees are expected to handle cash, including making nightly deposits, businesses should ensure that there is more than one employee present during cash counts and drop off.

DDA Leineweber is one of the specially assigned a deputy district attorney who can prosecute complex financial crimes such as embezzlement and other fraud cases.

"Protecting the most vulnerable members of our community, including the elderly and people with disabilities and small businesses, is a priority of the District Attorney's Office, which is why deputy district attorneys continue to receive ongoing training to prosecute fraud cases," Leineweber said.

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