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FORMER HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY TAX COLLECTOR
EMPLOYEE SENTENCED IN BRIBERY SCHEME

Tampa, Florida- United States District Judge Steven D. Merryday today sentenced Deisy Oropesa, a 31-year-old resident of Tampa, to 27 months' imprisonment. On November 7, 2007 Oropesa pleaded guilty to conspiracy to commit wire fraud, to produce identification documents without lawful authority, and to transfer drivers licenses without lawful authority, and three counts of wire fraud involving a scheme to defraud the public of honest services.

According to the plea agreement, Ms. Oropesa, while employed by the Hillsborough County Tax Collector's office as a senior customer service representative, accepted bribes in exchange for issuing Florida driver's licenses to persons who were ineligible to receive them, including individuals who had no legal status in the United States. Ms. Oropesa admitted to receiving \$200 per illegal transaction and a total of \$25,000 in bribes.

The case was investigated by United States Immigration and Customs Enforcement, Florida Highway Patrol, U.S. Department of Transportation, Office of Inspector General, and the Federal Bureau of Investigation. The case was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Thomas Palermo.