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NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Another County Employee Charged in FoodShare Scam



Milwaukee, WI – A Milwaukee County Sheriff's investigation uncovered another county employee involved in the FoodShare scam. Rosa E. Ordonez of Milwaukee, age 47, faces two felony charges, Theft by Fraud - Value Exceeding \$10,000 and Food Stamp Fraud – Greater than \$5,000. Ordonez was an economic support specialist for the FoodShare Wisconsin program initially as a county employee, and later as a state employee after the program was transferred to state administration in 2010. The fraud occurred from 2008 – 2011.

Sheriff's detectives investigated fraudulent FoodShare Wisconsin accounts allegedly created by Ordonez in the names of her ex-boyfriend, three brothers and her adult daughter living out of state. The complaint also indicates she listed false dependents on the accounts to increase the benefits that she used for herself.

The investigation showed Ordonez began defrauding the program in 2008 after the flood disaster in Milwaukee when she and several of her co-workers saw how easy it was to obtain disaster benefits. The co-workers assisted each other in issuing the fraudulent benefits.

If convicted on both counts, Ordonez faces up to 20 years in prison. Ordonez is to make her initial court appearance tomorrow.

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