



# ***BRPD News Item***

Baton Rouge Police Department Office of Media Relations  
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Date:	1/31/12
Slug:	Identity Theft Investigation
Submitted by:	Sgt. Don Kelly

The Baton Rouge Police Department Financial Crimes Division is conducting an identity theft investigation involving at least 187 potential victims so far, all students at a local school.

The investigation began on January 17, 2012 when Uniformed Patrol officers conducted a traffic stop in the 6500 block of Greenwell Street. During their investigation the officers found one of the occupants of the vehicle, ARNETIA BUCKLES, 17, 5245 LONGFELLOW DRIVE, to be in possession of several loose sheets of paper listing the names, dates of birth and social security numbers of 159 people, all believed to be students at the East Baton Rouge Acceleration Academy, 5959 Cadillac.

Investigators believe that Buckles somehow obtained the printout of personal information from the school, where she is also a student. She is accused of then using that information to file an as yet undetermined number of fraudulent federal income tax returns to collect refunds in the names of at least some of those individuals. Also found in the vehicle that evening were 15 Wal-Mart gift cards that were believed to have been obtained for credit by returning merchandise that had previously been stolen.

Buckles was arrested and booked into the East Baton Rouge Parish Prison on 1/17/12, charged with 159 counts of Identity Theft, Attempted Theft and Refund Fraud. A second occupant of the vehicle, SHAQUILLE PORTER, 20, 3711 CONRAD, was also arrested that night and charged with Attempted Theft and Refund Fraud. A third occupant, SCOTTIE MCKNIGHT, 18, 207 OLD RAFFAEL MAYER, was charged with Illegal Carrying of a Firearm and Resisting an Officer after he fled the scene and was later found to have a loaded handgun concealed in his pocket when he was captured.

A subsequent search of the vehicle's trunk at a later date also resulted in the location of 28 more names and personal data.

Baton Rouge Police Financial Crimes Detectives are continuing this investigation, working with assistance from the Internal Revenue Service and the United States Secret Service. Any students or parents who believe they have been victimized should contact Det. P. Martinez at (225) 389-3871.