



NEWS RELEASE

Prosecutor Camelia M. Valdes
Passaic County Prosecutor's Office
401 Grand Street
Paterson, NJ 07505
(973) 881-4800

FORMER HALEDON PUBLIC LIBRARY DIRECTOR ARRESTED

PATERSON, NEW JERSEY:

April 29, 2011

Passaic County Prosecutor Camelia M. Valdes announced that the former Director of the Haledon Free Public Library was arrested on Friday, April 29, 2011. The arrest is the product of an extensive investigation into online purchases billed to and paid through Library funds.

Members of the Passaic County Prosecutor's Office, Public Integrity Unit, and the North Haledon Police Department executed a search warrant on the home of Ms. Judith Erk on Friday morning. Ms. Erk is the former Director of the Haledon Free Public Library. Currently Ms. Erk is employed as an assistant librarian at Manchester Regional High School in the borough of North Haledon. Evidence pertaining to the unlawful purchase of merchandise using library funds was recovered. Items seized included electronics, kitchen appliances, jewelry and a faux fire place.

Ms. Erk was arrested and charged with one (1) count of Official Misconduct, a Second Degree crime and one (1) count of Theft by Deception in excess of \$75,000, also a Second Degree crime. Both charges carry a maximum penalty of up to 10 years in State Prison. Bail was set by the Honorable Harold Cook of the North Haledon Municipal Court at \$50,000 with no 10% option.

It should be noted that the charges are allegations and Ms. Erk is presumed innocent until such time as they are proven beyond a reasonable doubt.

For further information please contact Chief Assistant Prosecutor J. Patrick McCabe at (973) 837-7763 or pmccabe@passaiccountynj.org.