



**KATHERINE FERNANDEZ
RUNDLE
STATE ATTORNEY**



**ELEVENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
IN AND FOR MIAMI-DADE COUNTY**

Tag Agency Clerk Arrested in \$3 Million Title Fraud Scheme

Miami (May 14, 2024) Miami-Dade State Attorney Katherine Fernandez Rundle, City of Doral Police Chief Edwin Lopez, City of Miami Police Chief Manuel Morales, the Miami-Dade Office of the Tax Collector, and the Florida Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicle announce the arrest of 27-year-old Katherine M. Vera Moran.

Katherine M. Vera Moran is being charged with:

- 18 Counts Title Fraud 3rd Degree Felony
- 18 Counts Official Misconduct 3rd Degree Felony

“Fraudulent title transfers not only deceive the system but inflict profound harm on victims who suffer the loss of property and insurance companies who are forced to cover theft claims. Such crimes can have a lasting and detrimental impact on our community, costing the hardworking citizens of Miami-Dade County by driving up car insurance premiums,” said State Attorney Katherine Fernandez Rundle.

On January 12, 2024, the City of Doral Police were dispatched to 5161 NW 79th Ave regarding a stolen vehicle pinging inside the bay of a local auto shop. Detectives executed a search warrant upon arriving on the scene and located three stolen vehicles including a 2022 Lamborghini Urus, a 2023 Aston Martin DBS Superleggera, a 2021 Mercedes-Benz G550, and two fraudulent VIN plates. The owner of the garage was subsequently arrested for knowingly operating a Chop Shop.

Following the shop owner’s arrest, law enforcement questioned his involvement in the Auto Theft Operation, leading to the discovery of Vera Mora’s role as a Tag Agency Clerk at Baumgardner Tag Agency, located at 1375 NW 36th ST, Miami, FL.

Vera Moran was paid an extra \$800-1,000 for each fraudulent title transaction, accepting cash or Cash App payments before forging the titles and tax documents on stolen vehicles. The investigation exposed Vera Moran's frequent manipulation of VINs associated with total loss vehicles, such as transferring a 2020 White Jeep Gladiator, deemed a total loss due to extensive fire damage, to a salvage rebuilt title appearing in perfect condition.

FOR FURTHER
INFORMATION CONTACT:

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Throughout the investigation, 18 vehicles were recovered and/or positively identified with altered VINS, twelve of which were confirmed to be stolen. The approximate total value of stolen vehicles recovered and identified was \$3,385,000, all of which were processed by Vera Moran at Baumgardner Tag Agency.

“The Doral Police Department has a zero tolerance for crime within our city, especially when it involves the utilization of your official position to defraud members of our community. Our team of detectives worked diligently with the State Attorney’s Office and our law enforcement partners to target, infiltrate, and dismantle a criminal enterprise, and I am grateful for their exemplary service,” stated Chief Edwin Lopez.

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