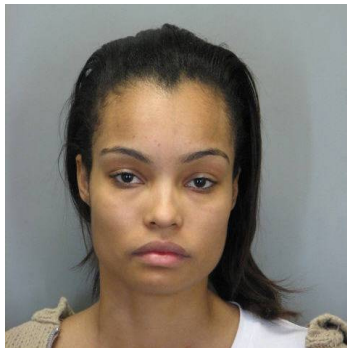




## **Town of Vienna, Virginia Police Department Media Information Release**

### **-CASE UPDATE- Wachovia Bank Robbery**



Mekeda Smith- El

Investigation of the alleged bank robbery which occurred on January 28, 2009, lead detectives to conclude that the event was not an actual bank robbery. On February 13, 2009, Vienna Police Detectives arrested Mekeda Smith-El, 26, of Fairfax Square in Fairfax, Virginia. Ms. Smith-El was charged with 3 counts of Embezzlement and one count of Solicitation to Commit a Felony. It was determined, through the investigation, that the report of a random bank robbery was staged to cover-up the embezzlement.

The investigation is continuing and the money has not yet been recovered.

### **Wachovia Bank in Vienna Robbed**

On January 28, 2009 at approximately 2:40 p.m. officers responded to an armed robbery call at the Wachovia Bank located in the 200 Block of Maple Avenue, NE. Upon their arrival units determined that the perpetrator had exited the bank with an unknown amount of cash.

The suspect is described as a black male in his 20's, 5' 8" tall, wearing a black hoodie style sweatshirt and black pants. The man was armed with an unknown type of handgun which was displayed during the robbery.

Nobody inside the bank was injured as a result of the robbery. The Fairfax County Police Department's K-9 unit was requested and responded to aid in the tracking of the individual. Agents from the Federal Bureau of Investigation responded as well to assist in the investigation.

Anyone with information relating to this case is asked to call Detective Art Sylmar of the Vienna Police Department at 703-255-7834.

**Please contact MPO Bill Murray for further information at  
703.255.6396 or [wmurray@viennava.gov](mailto:wmurray@viennava.gov)**