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**79-2024**  
**For Immediate Release**  
**October 9, 2024**

**BRONX WOMAN SENTENCED TO FIVE YEARS PROBATION FOR STEALING  
PARAPLEGIC VETERAN'S CREDIT CARD, BUYING PERSONAL ITEMS  
Defendant Was a Nursing Assistant in VA Hospital**

Bronx District Attorney Darcel D. Clark today announced that a former nursing assistant in the Veterans Affairs Medical Center in the Bronx has been sentenced to five years probation after pleading guilty to stealing a patient's credit card and purchasing food deliveries, shoes and other items.

District Attorney Clark said, "The defendant, who was an employee of the hospital, violated her duty to the patient, a paralyzed veteran. She will now suffer the consequences of her behavior with a permanent criminal record."

Special Agent in Charge Christopher Algieri of the Department of Veterans Affairs Office of Inspector General's Northeast Field Office said, "Today's sentence sends a clear message that the VA Office of Inspector General will vigorously investigate VA employees who would exploit our nation's veterans receiving care at VA medical facilities. The VA OIG thanks the Bronx District Attorney's Office for their efforts in this case."

The defendant, Unique Allen, 34, of Buck Street, the Bronx was sentenced today to five years probation on one count of fourth-degree Grand Larceny by Bronx Supreme Court Justice Timothy Lewis. She pleaded guilty to that charge on August 30, 2024.

On or between December 8, 2019, and January 20, 2020, Unique Allen, then a full-time nursing assistant in the Spinal Cord Injury Unit at the James J. Peters VA Medical Center at 130 West Kingsbridge Road, used the credit card information of a 72-year-old paraplegic patient to buy food, shoes, bath items and movie tickets worth about \$600. She attempted to purchase \$2,000 in other items but was rejected. Allen was subsequently fired from her position for an unrelated reason.



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The case was prosecuted by Supervising Assistant District Attorney Sarah Clements and Major Case Assistant District Attorney Jared Rosen of the Public Integrity Bureau and under the supervision of Allison Riesel, Deputy Chief of the Public Integrity Bureau and Omer Wiczuk, Chief of the Public Integrity Bureau, and under the overall supervision of Denise Kodjo, Deputy Chief of the Investigations Division and Wanda Perez-Maldonado, Chief of the Investigations Division.

District Attorney Clark thanked Supervising Trial Preparation Assistant Nathanielle Filius of the Investigations Division and Trial Preparation Assistant Margaret Williford of the Public Integrity Bureau, former Assistant District Attorney Rosanna Gallego-Manzano and former Detective Investigator Yanireth Pascal for their assistance with the case.

District Attorney Clark thanked Special Agent Vanessa Velazquez of the Veterans Affairs Office of Inspector General for her assistance with the case.