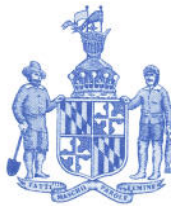


ROBERT A. ROHRBAUGH  
STATE PROSECUTOR



OFFICE OF  
**THE STATE PROSECUTOR**

Hampton Plaza  
Suite 410  
300 East Joppa Road  
Towson, MD 21286-3152

Telephone (410) 321-4067  
1 (800) 695-4058  
Fax (410) 321-3851

January 16, 2007

**For Immediate Release**

On Tuesday January 16, 2007, a Washington County Circuit Court Judge convicted Cindy Kaye Baer, age 40, for her involvement in a theft from the Board of License Commissioners of Washington County, also known as the Washington County Liquor Board.

Ms. Baer, a resident of Hagerstown, Maryland, was formerly a volunteer at the Liquor Board. According to the Grand Jury indictment handed down on October 20, 2006, Ms. Baer stole over \$5,000 from the Liquor Board by making personal purchases at Staples and Sam's Club, and paying for those purchases with checks from the Liquor Board.

In a plea agreement between Ms. Baer and the State, Ms. Baer will be sentenced to 2 years of incarceration, suspended in full, and that she will be placed on probation for a period of 5 years. She will perform 832 hours of community service, and make restitution to the Liquor Board in the amount of \$12,168. Additionally, Ms. Baer agreed to cooperate with the State in any further investigations.

After hearing a statement of facts, the Court found Ms. Baer guilty and ordered that sentencing be deferred for several months to allow Ms. Baer to cooperate with the State.

Robert Rohrbaugh, the State Prosecutor, made the following comment: "Today's conviction of Ms. Baer demonstrates our continued focus on rooting out and prosecuting corruption within governmental agencies."

## STATEMENT OF FACTS

(The following is the Statement of Facts was read to the Washington County Circuit Court on January 16, 2007:)

Cindy Baer, a resident of Hagerstown, Maryland, was a volunteer at the Board of License Commissioners of Washington County, also known as the Washington County Liquor Board, from 2000-2005. While she was a volunteer at the Liquor Board, she assisted in the bookkeeping and issuance of checks.

During the time frame of May 26, 2004 and July 24, 2006, approximately 14 months, Ms. Baer began making personal purchases at Sam's Club and Staples. The purchases, mostly food and personal items, were paid for by Liquor Board checks that were drafted and signed by Ms. Baer, without the Liquor Board's knowledge or consent.

Investigators were able to identify at least 44 separate purchases at Sam's Club, with a purchase price range between \$17.50 on the low end and \$493.10 at the high end, with the average purchase price being approximately \$275.00. The total amount that Ms. Baer purchased from Sam's Club, using Liquor Board funds, was \$12,168.

While the State was unable to determine the exact amount that Ms. Baer purchased at Staples with Liquor Board money, Ms. Baer did agree and the documents do support that she did make personal purchases at Staples while using Liquor Board money, again without the knowledge or authority of the Liquor Board.

These events did occur in Washington County, Maryland.