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PRESS RELEASE

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Former State Employee Pleads Guilty to Insurance Fraud and Felony Theft

BALTIMORE, MD (October 24, 2024) – Attorney General Anthony G. Brown today announced that Shanell Angelia West, 46, of Essex, Maryland, has pleaded guilty in the Circuit Court for Baltimore County in separate cases involving insurance fraud and felony theft. The charges stemmed from her actions during and after her employment with the Maryland Department of Labor.

In the first case, West pleaded guilty to theft scheme with a value between \$1,500 and \$25,000. West, who was a clerk at the Department of Labor, admitted to stealing funds from licensees by altering checks payable to the state and depositing them into personal bank accounts. After being terminated from state employment, West continued to deposit forged versions of checks she had obtained while she was a state employee.

In the second case, West pleaded guilty to insurance fraud. West filed an insurance claim for wages she supposedly lost after missing work at the Department of Labor due to a car accident. However, West had been terminated from state employment in 2022—long before the period for which she claimed lost wages.

Sentencing in both cases is scheduled for December 6, 2024, in the Circuit Court for Baltimore County.

In making today's announcement, Attorney General Brown thanked his Criminal Division, specifically the Fraud and Corruption Unit, Chief Alex Huggins, Assistant Attorneys General William Elman and Timothy Lake, and Investigative Auditor Harry Schulz for their work on the cases. Attorney General Brown also thanked State's Attorney for Baltimore County Scott Shellenberger for his assistance with this prosecution.

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