



January 22, 2020

FORMER PBGC CONTRACTOR SENTENCED TO 32 MONTHS IN PRISON FOR STEALING PENSION BENEFITS

Activity Date: January 22, 2020

OIG Case Number: 19-0010-I

On January 22, 2020, Tonya Thomas, a/k/a "Tonya Fulton" of Miami, Florida, was sentenced in U.S. District Court, Southern District of Florida, to 32 months in prison after redirecting a pension payment to a bank account she controlled. On October 30, 2019, Thomas pleaded guilty to one count of wire fraud and one count of aggravated identity theft.

The investigation revealed that on November 8, 2018, the defendant called the Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation Customer Contact Center and impersonated a pension plan participant. At the time, the defendant was employed as a contractor at PBGC's Miami field office. During the call, the defendant requested that PBGC update the participant's electronic direct deposit information and provided PBGC with a new routing number and checking account number that the defendant controlled. Subsequently, on December 3, 2018, the participant's direct deposit in the amount of \$4,763.75 was wired from State Street Bank in Quincy, Massachusetts to the defendant's bank account located in the Southern District of Florida.