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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
APRIL 14, 2010**

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**WOMAN SENTENCED IN MANHATTAN FEDERAL COURT
FOR STEALING CREDIT CARD INFORMATION
FROM CITY'S OFFICE OF VITAL RECORDS**

PREET BHARARA, the United States Attorney for the Southern District of New York, and ROSE GILL HEARN, the Commissioner of the New York City Department of Investigation, announced that JAZZREA McRAE was sentenced today to five months in prison and five months of home confinement for her role in a scheme to steal credit card information from the City's Office of Vital Records. McRAE was sentenced in Manhattan federal court by United States District Judge RICHARD J. SULLIVAN.

As alleged in the Information to which McRAE pleaded guilty and other filings in Manhattan federal court:

The New York City Office of Vital Records is part of the New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene. The Office of Vital Records, among other things, issues certified copies of birth certificates for people born in New York City. A person born in New York City can obtain a copy of his or her birth certificate by submitting to the Office of Vital Records a form that includes both biographical data and credit card information to allow for the processing of a fee.

In early 2009, McRAE introduced a college aide at the Office of Vital Records's Manhattan office to an accomplice, NATHANIEL ROBINSON. At ROBINSON's suggestion, the college aid then stole credit card account information from forms that had been submitted by individuals requesting certified copies of their birth certificates from the Office of Vital Records, and provided that stolen information to ROBINSON. On several occasions, McRAE, posing as an employee of the Office of Vital Records, called some of the victims of this theft and asked for

the security codes that appeared on the victims' credit cards. The stolen credit card information was then used without authorization in an attempt to purchase thousands of dollars in goods and services.

ROBINSON previously pleaded guilty to aggravated identity theft. He was sentenced to 24 months in prison by United States District Judge VICTOR MARRERO on January 29, 2010.

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Mr. BHARARA praised the investigative work of the New York City Department of Investigation.

U.S. Attorney PREET BHARARA said: "Jazzrea McRae schemed to steal credit card information from New Yorkers seeking the most basic form of identification, their birth certificates. We will continue to work with our partners at DOI to protect New York City residents from identity thieves and fraudsters."

DOI Commissioner ROSE GILL HEARN said: "This prison term is a powerful reminder of the serious consequences for a criminal who targets a City agency and the unwitting citizens who need its services. Thankfully, the Health Department's direct notification to DOI helped investigators swiftly shut down the scam and led to new credit card security measures at the Health Department. DOI and the U.S. Attorney for the Southern District of New York will continue to root out public corruption and fraud."

The case is being prosecuted by the Office's Public Corruption Unit. Assistant United States Attorneys BRENT WIBLE and ZACHARY FEINGOLD are in charge of the prosecution.

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