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## Former Cumberland tax collector pleads no contest to embezzlement



March 2, 2007

CUMBERLAND, R.I. --A former tax collector in Cumberland settles charges she embezzled thousands of dollars from the Cumberland Hill Fire District where she worked.

Authorities say Darlene Blanchette pleaded no contest to felony embezzlement and paid back more than \$95,000.

In the plea agreement with the state attorney general's office, six other felony charges against the 50-year-old Blanchette were dismissed.

In addition, Blanchette was placed on three years of probation.

The amount paid back was \$78,000 Blanchette admitted taking and an additional \$17,000 to cover the cost of the investigation.

Fire District Commission Chairman Ronald Champagne says he felt "betrayed" by Blanchette's actions.

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Information from: The Times, <http://www.pawtuckettimes.com> ■

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