

**COUNTY OF SUFFOLK
DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE**



**THOMAS J. SPOTA
DISTRICT ATTORNEY**

December 21, 2011

Food Pantry Director charged with selling fake Tiffany jewelry

A north shore food pantry director is under arrest for selling counterfeit Tiffany merchandise, telling customers the jewelry and other products she purchased online from China were “trendy affordable silver factory seconds” donated to the Greater Port Jefferson Food Pantry by the retailer’s factory in Europe.

“Tiffany and Company doesn’t have a factory in Europe and the company does not sell “factory seconds”, said Suffolk County District Attorney Thomas Spota.

Evidence gathered during the investigation via the execution of search warrants shows Mary Ann Bell of Stony Brook used the money raised from the sale of the counterfeit items for personal expenses such as car payments and a Florida vacation, Spota said.

The district attorney said the investigation began in September and an analysis of Bell’s records indicates the scheme goes back at least three years and took in an estimated \$150,000 annually.

“Bell usually sold these fake goods at nursing homes and hospitals, charging consumers an average of \$40 per necklace, bracelet, pair of earrings or whatever...she also told us her cost from her Chinese supplier was approximately five dollars per piece,” Spota said. “She has fully acknowledged her complicity in this scheme.”

Bell, 69, is charged with trademark counterfeiting in the second degree, a class E felony punishable by a maximum one and one-third to four years in prison. She will be arraigned in First District Court on February 1.

A statement issued by Tiffany thanked the district attorney’s office for the hard work and effort culminating in Bell’s arrest. “Tiffany & Co. takes anti-counterfeiting enforcement and the protection of consumer interests seriously and wholly supports the District Attorney’s pursuit of this common goal,” the statement said.



SUFFOLK COUNTY
DISTRICT ATTORNEY
THOMAS J. SPOTA



CHARITY FRAUD



SCDA COMMUNICATIONS

(631) 853-4118

Veterans Memorial Highway, Hauppauge

Robert.Clifford@suffolkcountyny.gov

Defendants are entitled to a fair trial with the burden on the government to prove guilt beyond a reasonable doubt.