



Genesee County Prosecutor's Office

David Leyton, Prosecutor



Former treasurer of Goodrich boosters pleads guilty to embezzlement charge

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Tanya Yannaki

GOODRICH, Michigan -- A former treasurer of the Goodrich Athletic Boosters Club has pleaded guilty to a reduced embezzlement charge.

But if Tonya A. Yannaki completes the terms of an expected year-long probation, she would be left with a misdemeanor conviction instead of a felony record.

Yannaki, 46, of Grand Blanc, pleaded guilty Wednesday to attempted embezzlement of an agent/trustee over \$20,000 but less than \$50,000, a 5-year felony.

She had been charged with embezzlement of an agent/trustee over \$20,000 but less than \$50,000, a 10-year felony.

Under terms of a plea deal with prosecutors, Yannaki will face a delayed sentence of one year probation at her sentencing April 14 before Genesee Circuit Judge Richard B. Yuille.

If she has no further violations and completes any terms she may be given, prosecutors will amend the charge in 2009 from a felony to embezzlement of an agent/trustee over \$200 but less than \$1,000, a misdemeanor.

During her plea, Yannaki admitted taking thousands of dollars from the non-profit agency.

"I let a lot of people down," Yannaki told Yuille during her plea. "I'm very sorry for it ... I was absolutely wrong."

Attorney Kenneth R. Tucker, who represents Yannaki, said she used "poor judgment" in taking the cash, but has since repaid \$24,000 to the group.

Yannaki, treasurer from 2002-06, said she was in charge of cash and checks the group took in from various fund raisers.

Officials said the thefts began in October 2006 and continued through 2007.

The thefts were discovered after Yannaki apparently stopped attending club meetings and she was forced to turn over financial statements to other club officials.

In all, officials said she used \$48,000 from the group.

The booster club now requires two signatures on checks and financial statements to be sent to the president and treasurer, as well as refraining from the use of online banking services, to avoid thefts in the future.

The Goodrich Boosters raise cash to offset sports costs the district can't cover, such as special equipment.

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