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Defendant Sentenced to More than Seven Years in Identity Theft Scheme

(RICHMOND, Va.) – Moorthy Srinivasan Ram, 58, of Gove City, Ohio, was sentenced today to 87 months' imprisonment for bank fraud. United States District Judge Henry E. Hudson also ordered Ram to pay \$107,678 in restitution to the victims of his criminal conduct. Neil H. MacBride, United States Attorney for the Eastern District of Virginia, announced the sentence.

According to court records, Ram was involved in a bank fraud scheme that spanned from March through September 2008. The scheme started on March 14, 2008, when Ram assumed his victim's identity by filing an Application for Change of Name in Henrico County Circuit Court. Ram knew the victim from prior interactions and did not have the victim's authorization to use his name or identifying information. Ram then used the victim's identifiers and a Virginia Driver's License in the victim's name to open up a fraudulent bank account at BB&T Bank. Ram used the BB&T account to receive and transfer fraudulent funds obtained via cash advances on two fraudulent Bank of America credit cards the defendant had also obtained in the victim's name. Ram subsequently withdrew the stolen funds out of this BB&T bank account and used the money for his own expenses.

This case was investigated by the United States Postal Inspection Service as a member of the Metro-Richmond Identity Theft Task Force. Other member agencies include: the Secret Service; the Federal Bureau of Investigation; Bureau of Diplomatic Security, U.S. Department of State; Richmond Police Department; and the Chesterfield County Police Department; and Henrico County Division of Police. Prosecutions for the Task Force are handled by the United States Attorney's Office and the Office of the Attorney General for the Commonwealth of Virginia. For more information on the Task Force, including assistance for victims of identity theft, visit: www.richmondIDtheft.com.

Assistant United States Attorney Michael R. Gill prosecuted the case for the United States.

A copy of this press release may be found on the website of the United States Attorney's Office for the Eastern District of Virginia at <http://www.usdoj.gov/usao/vae>. Related court documents and information may be found on the website of the District Court for the Eastern District of Virginia at <http://www.vaed.uscourts.gov> or on <http://pacer.uspci.uscourts.gov>.

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