



U.S. Department of Justice

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NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Richmond, Virginia
August 17, 2005

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Paul J. McNulty, United States Attorney for the Eastern District of Virginia, announced the unsealing of a federal indictment charging 14 individuals in connection with a conspiracy to defraud banks and credit unions in the Richmond Metropolitan area by negotiating stolen and worthless checks. If convicted of this offense, the defendants face a maximum penalty of up to 30 years of imprisonment, a fine up to \$1,000,000 and 5 years of supervised release. Arraignment on the charges is scheduled for August 24, 2005, before United States District Judge Richard L. Williams.

The indictment alleges a conspiracy that spanned from June 2004 to January 2005, and was lead by Marilyn Roberson. During this time frame, it is alleged, Roberson directed others to open 9 different bank accounts for the sole purpose of negotiating worthless or stolen checks. Roberson, the indictment charges, also paid others for the use of their pre-existing accounts to deposit the checks. The objective of the conspiracy was to make quick withdrawals before the victim banks could detect fraud. The scheme affected six different financial institutions. The total amount of fraudulent transactions alleged is approximately \$180,000.

The following individuals are charged in the Indictment:

Marilyn Roberson, age 38, of Richmond, VA;
Alonzo Kearney, age 45, of Richmond, VA;
Alicia Edwards, age 47, of Richmond, VA;
Michael Cook, age 46, of Richmond, VA;
Herbert Seward, age 28, of Richmond, VA;

Richmond, VA;

Supreme Khaaliq, age 32, of Richmond, VA;
Lynette Bowler, age 24, of Fredericksburg, VA;
Sherida Robinson, age 35, of Richmond, VA;
Aisha Langry, age 20, of Richmond, VA;
Natasha Gray, age 21, of Richmond, VA;
Chante Hamlin, age 19, of Richmond, VA;
Tarshena Valentine, age 26, of Richmond, VA; and
Christina Valentine, age 21, of Richmond, VA.

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This prosecution started with referrals from some of the victim banks, which noticed the

suspicious transactions. The investigation was conducted by the Metro-Richmond Fraud and Identity Theft Task Force with participation from the Hanover Sheriff's Office. The task force was formed in November 2004 to address the growing problem of identity theft and related crimes in the metro Richmond area. The federal, state and local agencies participating in the task force on a full-time basis are: U.S. Treasury Inspector General, Office of Investigations; United States Postal Inspection Service; United States Secret Service; Richmond Police Department; and Henrico Police Department.

Also announcing the indictment are: Rick Ardis, Assistant Special Agent-In-Charge, U.S. Treasury Inspector General, Office of Investigations; Guy Cottrell, Postal Inspector In Charge of the Washington Division, U.S. Postal Inspection Service; Jane P. Murphy, Special Agent-In-Charge, Secret Service, Richmond Field Office; Col. Rodney Monroe, Chief, Richmond Police Department; and Col. Henry Stanley, Chief of Police for the County of Henrico.

The case is being prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Laura C. Marshall and Special Assistant United States Attorney G. Michael Favale, an Assistant to the Attorney General of Virginia.

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