



**Marydith Newman**  
**Postal Inspector – Team Leader**  
**Richmond/Norfolk, VA**

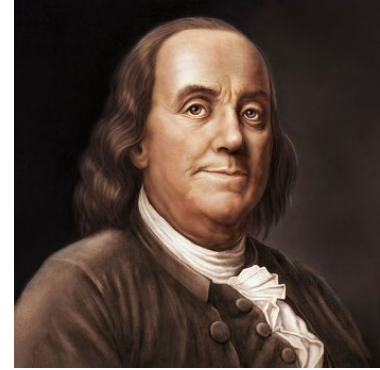
# Who are Those Guys?

The mission of the U.S. Postal Inspection Service is to support and protect the U.S. Postal Service and its employees, infrastructure, and customers; enforce the laws that defend the nation's mail system from illegal or dangerous use; and ensure public trust in the mail.





## Our History



- The Inspection Service is the oldest federal law enforcement agency.
- In 1772 Postmaster General Benjamin Franklin appointed the position of “Surveyor” to regulate the U.S. Mail.

# Our Personnel

- Approx. **1000** Postal Inspectors (national & international)
- **750** Uniformed Postal Police Officers (major metros)
- **700** Support Staff (Analysts, Techs, Lab, Contractors, etc)
- Enforce over **200** Federal Statutes
- Average approx. **7,000** arrests per year



# Dangerous Mail Investigations

**SPECIAL REWARD**  
Up to **\$2.5 million**

For information leading to the arrest and conviction of the individual(s) responsible for the mailing of letters containing anthrax to the New York Post, Tom Brokaw at NBC, Senator Tom Daschle and Senator Patrick Leahy:



**AS A RESULT OF EXPOSURE TO ANTHRAX, FIVE (5) PEOPLE HAVE DIED.**

The person responsible for these deaths...

- Likely has a scientific background/work history which may include a specific familiarity with anthrax
- Has a level of comfort in and around the Trenton, NJ area due to present or prior association

Anyone having information, contact America's Most Wanted at 1-800-CRIME TV or the FBI via e-mail at [amerithrax@fbi.gov](mailto:amerithrax@fbi.gov)

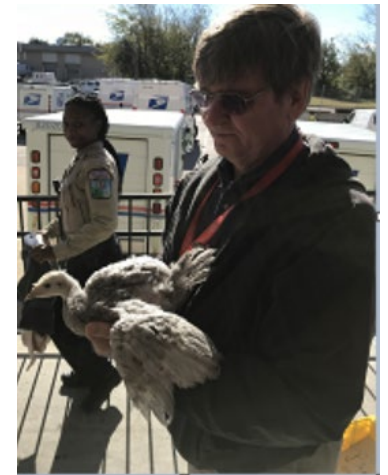
All information will be held in strict confidence. Reward payment will be made in accordance with the conditions of Postal Service Reward Poster 296, dated February 2000. Source of reward funds: U.S. Postal Service and FBI \$2,000,000; ADVO, Inc. \$500,000.



# Physical Security Responsibilities



- Civil unrest or large-scale events (road races, inaugurations etc)
- Natural disasters
- Airport security – 3PK9
- OMC – Observation of mail conditions during elections
- Election Mail Security
- Unsecured curbside delivery conversions



# Violent Crimes – Protecting Employees

## Investigative Duties:

- Physical assault of employees/contractors
- Conducting threat assessments
- Robberies of employees and facilities
- Sexual assaults of employees
- Kidnapped employees
- Death investigations to include employee homicide/suicide
- Burglaries and vandalism of postal facilities



# Prohibited Mailings – Narcotics & Money Laundering

- Narcotics
- Currency





# Consumer Protection


- Targeting Mail theft and financial crimes involving the Mail; or use of Postal products.
- Thwarting Mail fraud schemes through aggressive investigations and prevention.



# Mail Fraud: Title 18 U.S.C. 1341

- Foreign lottery
- Sweepstakes
  - Jamaica
  - Canada
- Work at home schemes
- Reshipping Fraud
- Investment Schemes
- Election Fraud
- Romance Schemes

**INTERNATIONAL LOTTO COMMISSION**

 CALLE FARO, 14  
28003 MADRID, SPAIN.  
TEL: 00-11-34-653-347-660

FROM: THE DESK OF MANAGING DIRECTOR  
REFERENCE NUMBER: ES / 018172626328-01  
BATCH NUMBER: PL- 013284-8127437

07/02/2006

ATTN: **NAME REMOVED**

**RE: AWARD NOTIFICATION FINAL NOTICE**


This is to inform you of the release of the Beginning of Year International Lotto Promotion Program. La primitiva lottery held on the 31<sup>st</sup> January 2006, this result was initially delayed due to mix up of numbers and addresses, the results were finally released on the 6<sup>th</sup> February 2006, and your name attached to Ticket number: 165-049-751-720-351 with Serial number: 1330-21, which drew the Lucky numbers: 25-85-64-75-35-32, which consequently won the lottery in the first category of the year 2006. You are therefore approved for a lump sum payout of € 415,850.00 (FOUR HUNDRED AND FIFTEEN THOUSAND, EIGHT HUNDRED AND FIFTY EUROS ONLY) in cash accredited to file reference number: ES/ 018172626328-01, this is from a total cash prize of € 7, 901,150.00 (SEVEN MILLION, NINE HUNDRED AND ONE THOUSAND, ONE HUNDRED AND FIFTY EUROS ONLY) Shared among the nineteen international winners in this category. CONGRATULATIONS!!!!

Your fund is now deposited in a security company with your prize money insured in your name. Due to mix up of some numbers and names, we ask that you keep this award from public notice until your claim has been processed and money remitted to your account as this is part of our security protocol to avoid double claiming or unwarranted taking advantage of this program by participants as it has happened in the past. All participants were selected through a computer ballot systems / shopping ticket-foils and travelling ticket-foils drawn from 25,000 Company names and individual names from Asia, Australia, New Zealand, Europe, America, Africa and North America as part of our annual-international promotional programs. We hope your lucky name will draw a bigger cash prize in the next high stake promotion agenda of EURO 21,300,000.00 (TWENTY-ONE MILLION, THREE HUNDRED THOUSAND)

To begin your lottery claim, please contact your claim agent, MR. CARLOS FERNANDEZ, foreign operations manager, payment and release order department, SANTALUCIA SECURITY COMPANY S.A on Tel: 00 11 34 652 335 371 & Fax: 00 11 34 625 931 053 for registration and processing of your winning prize money to designated account of your choice. Complete the attached payment processing form and return by fax to your claim agent. Remember, all prize money must be claimed not later than 31<sup>st</sup> March 2006. After this date, this fund will be returned to the MINISTERIO DE ECONOMIA Y HACIENDA as unclaimed fund.

**NOTE:** In order to avoid unnecessary delay and complication, please remember to quote your reference and batch numbers in every correspondence with your agent or us. Furthermore, should there be any change of your address, do inform your claim agent as soon as possible. Congratulations once again from all members of our staff and thank you for being part of our International promotion program. We wish you continued good fortunes.

Yours Sincerely,

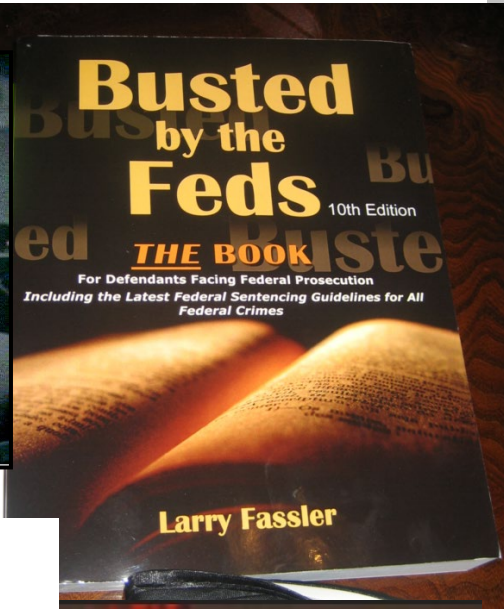
  
DON JUAN PALMA GONZALEZ  
(DIRECTOR DE LA LOTTERIA)

**LOTERIAS Y APUESTAS DEL ESTADO**

**APROVED**

SECURITY CODEX-INFORMATIONS (STRICTLY FOR WINNER ONLY) N°: 00017600123275

# Mail Fraud Investment Schemes



## MEGAYACHT OWNER SENTENCED TO CENTURY IN JAIL

August 7, 2009 By: Diane M. Byrne

Looks like Bernie Madoff may have some company.

Earlier this week, Edward H. Okun, the owner of the 131-foot *Simone*, was sentenced to 100 years in prison for trying to defraud clients and obtain about \$126 million in client funds held by his company.



## P. O. INSPECTORS WERE ON PONZI'S TRAIL FOR MONTHS

Chief Mosby Tells of Long Hunt for Evidence  
—Warned Hundreds Against Falling  
Into Trap

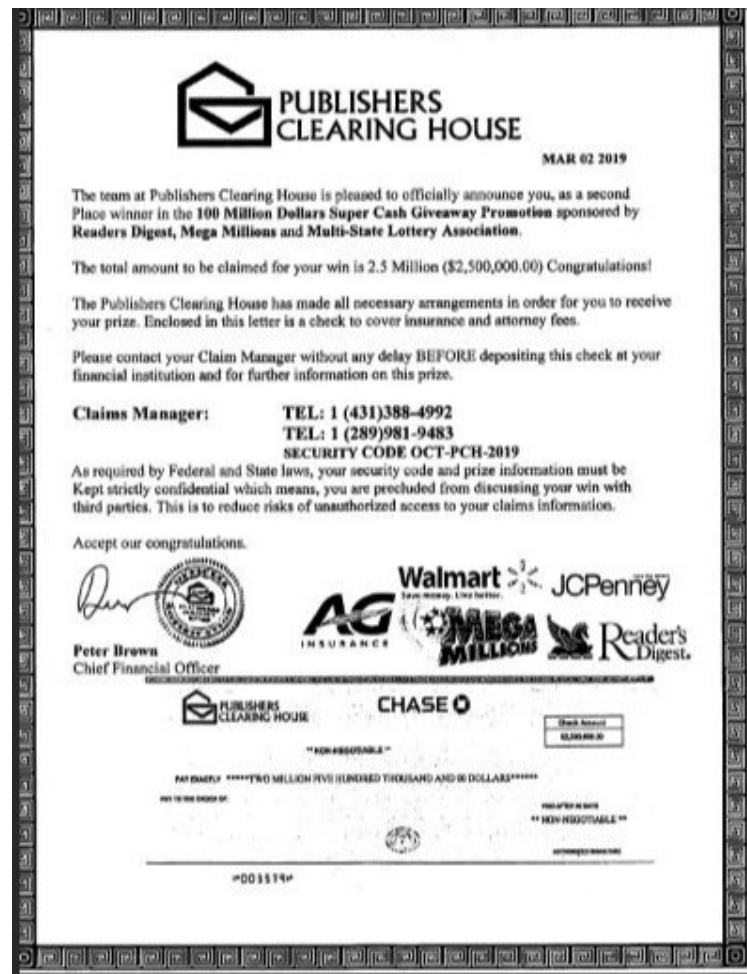
Chief Postoffice Inspector Hal B. Mosby issued the following statement last night in regard to the Postoffice activities in the Ponzi case:  
"Relief from a great anxiety, existing for several months, came today at noon, with the arrest of Charles Ponzi on complaint by this office before United States Commissioner Hayes, of the violation by Ponzi of Section 1707, Postal Laws and Regulations of 1912, in which he is charged with using the

**STATE HAS \$125,000  
IN HANOVER TRUST**

Announcement Made From  
Governor's Office

# Mail Fraud Lottery Schemes

“We identified additional victims that sent cash/checks to Ms. Coleman and there were numerous SARS filed on her as well. Reviewed her past mail deliveries and the supporting SAR documents from BOA and PNC Bank. It was determined she was a money mule and rather than wait to make contact- Inspector Thomasson interviewed Ms. Coleman earlier this week. Ms. Coleman became an earlier victim in a Publishers Clearinghouse advance fee scheme and was now receiving other people’s money. The money was then taken out via debit card by unknown individuals. Inspector Thomasson froze remaining monies in the PNC Bank account. It appears \$15,000 of your victim’s \$26,000 is still in the account. That will be going back to your Arizona victim; Ms. Salmon located in Oro Valley. Your contact, Ora Valley Detective Jones has been kept apprised of this situation.”



# Types of Mail Theft Investigations

- Volume attacks
- Residential boxing
- Fishing
- Postal vehicle break-ins
- Facility Burglaries
- Registry robberies
- “Porch Pirates”
- Internal mail theft/mail room security compromise

# What Are Thieves Looking For?

- Checks (including cancelled checks)
- Credit cards
- Pre-approved credit card applications
- Convenience checks
- Credit Bureau Reports
- Bank & credit card statements
- Employee and customer records

# Who is Stealing Mail?

- Individual thieves
- Street Gangs
- Organized Groups
- Corporate employees
- Postal employees, including contract employees
- Airline employees/airport ground support

# Why Do They Want Your Information?

- Easy money – “cooking” checks to cash
- Credit card theft/re-encoding
- Pre-approved credit card applications – assume credit for large purchases – usually vehicles
- Bank & credit card statements – Bank Account Takeovers
- Employee and customer records – ID Theft



# Volume Attacks: Residential Mailboxes

Unsecured Curbside Delivery



NDCBU – Secured Mode of Delivery



# Volume Attacks: Postal Vehicle Break Ins

- USPIS notified by local Post Office
- Enter into USPS Financial Crimes Database
- Customer notifications

LLV – Long Life Vehicle



NGDV - Next Generation Delivery Vehicle



Dear Postal Customer:

A Postal vehicle that serves your address was recently vandalized. If you are aware of fraudulent activity regarding your credit card or checking accounts related to this vandalism or any other similar fraudulent activity pertaining to the theft of your mail, please immediately contact the **United States Postal Inspection Service** at **877-876-2455**. Your assistance will increase the likelihood that the person(s) responsible will be identified and apprehended. **Rewards** of up to **\$10,000** are payable by the Postal Service for information and services leading to the arrest and conviction of mail thieves.

The following are some tips offered to protect you from mail theft:

- DO NOT leave mail (inbound or outbound) in your mailbox overnight, when mail thieves usually attack.
- When possible, deposit your mail directly into the collection slot inside of a Post Office or give it directly to a USPS letter carrier. You can also consider taking your outbound mail to your place of employment and having it picked up along with the other business mail by a letter carrier.
- Promptly report the non-receipt of credit cards, checks and other valuable mail to both the senders and also the Postal Inspection Service.
- Be alert and notify the proper authorities of suspicious people, activity and vehicles in the vicinity of your NDCBU. If you become aware of any unlawful activity concerning the theft of your mail, promptly notify your location law enforcement agency and the U.S. Postal Inspection Service.

U.S. Postal Inspection Service, Los Angeles Division, PO Box 2000, Pasadena, CA 91102 **877-876-2455**

# Volume Attacks: Blue Collection Box - Fishing



# Volume Attacks: Blue Collection Boxes - Pry



< Tweet



Bill Fitzgerald ✓  
@BillFitzCBS6

BREAKING: Henrico Police on scene at a Glen Allen post office where mailboxes were broken into. Working to confirm report that ballots were taken. Postal inspectors investigating. #cbs6 #election2020 🇺🇸



# Volume Attacks: Blue Collection Boxes – Arrow Keys



# Postal Arrow Keys

- Allow USPS employees to gain access to neighborhood delivery collection box units (NDCBU) and Blue Collection Boxes
- Allows USPS employees to gain access to apartment buildings and gated communities
- Keys are considered accountable property
  - If lost/stolen must be entered into NCIC



# Counterfeit Arrow Keys



# Violent Crime to Commit Mail Theft

- Armed Robberies
- Facility Burglaries



UNITED STATES POSTAL INSPECTION SERVICE

**REWARD**

**Up to \$50,000**

Robberies of USPS Letter Carriers



The U.S. Postal Inspection Service is offering a reward of up to \$50,000 for information leading to the arrest and conviction of the suspect(s) who robbed two United States Postal Service (USPS) letter carriers.

The first incident took place in the area of Channing Avenue and Prospect Parkway, Portsmouth, VA, and the second occurred in the 1800 block of Redgate Drive, Portsmouth, VA.

Both incidents occurred on Thursday, May 18, 2023 between 2:00 p.m. - 2:15 p.m.

The suspects are described as three Black males, wearing black clothing and a lime green ski mask.

**TAKE NO ACTION TO APPREHEND THIS PERSON YOURSELF**  
If you have any information about this incident, please contact the:  
U.S. Postal Inspection Service at 1-877-876-2455 (say "Law Enforcement")  
Reference Case No. 4039433  
All information will be kept strictly confidential.



UNITED STATES POSTAL INSPECTION SERVICE

**REWARD**

**Up to \$50,000**

Robbery of USPS Employee



The U.S. Postal Inspection Service is offering a reward of up to \$50,000 for information leading to the arrest and conviction of the suspect(s) who robbed a United States letter carrier in the 1600 block of Limerok Drive, Richmond, VA 23225.

The incident occurred at approximately 3:30 p.m. on Friday July 7, 2023.

**TAKE NO ACTION TO APPREHEND THIS PERSON YOURSELF**

If you have any information about this incident, please contact the:  
U.S. Postal Inspection Service at 1-877-876-2455 (say "Law Enforcement")  
Reference Case No. 4073234  
All information will be kept strictly confidential.

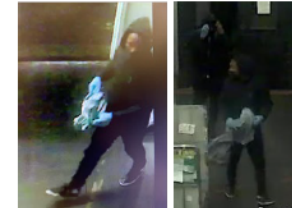


UNITED STATES POSTAL INSPECTION SERVICE

**REWARD**

**Up to \$10,000**

BURGLARY OF A POST OFFICE



The U.S. Postal Inspection Service is offering a reward of up to \$10,000 for information leading to the arrest and conviction of the suspects who burglarized the Southside Station Post Office, 2101 Hopkins Road, Richmond, VA 23224.

The incident occurred on July 16, 2023, at approximately 11:48 p.m.  
The two unidentified subjects are pictured above.

**TAKE NO ACTION TO APPREHEND THESE PERSONS YOURSELF**

If you have any information about this incident, please contact the:  
U.S. Postal Inspection Service at 1-877-876-2455 (say "Law Enforcement")  
Reference Case No. 4061325  
All information will be kept strictly confidential.



# What Happens When They Get Your Check?

- Telegram/Instagram – Used to sell stolen checks, recruit “cooks” & cashers
- Wash/Counterfeited using photoshop
- Mobile Deposited
- Recruit others to make money by providing their Debit Card and Pin for check cashing “Card Cracking”

# The Evolution of Check Cashing – Then

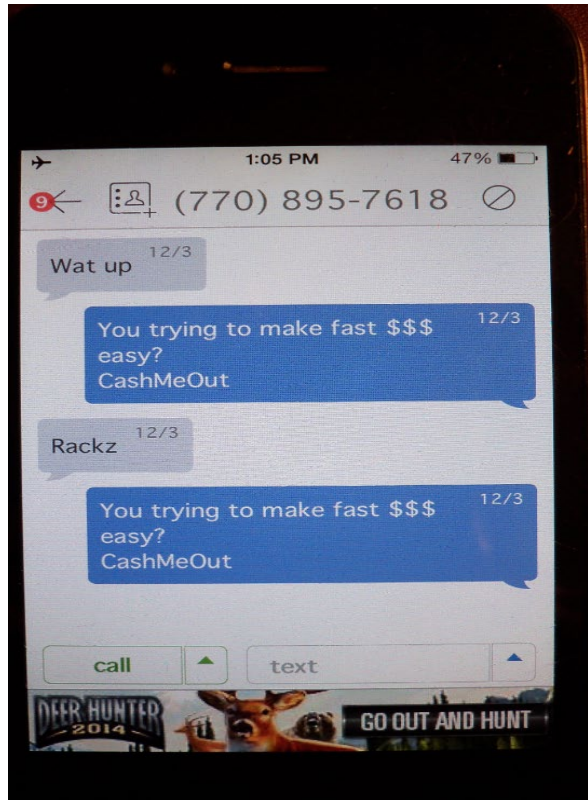
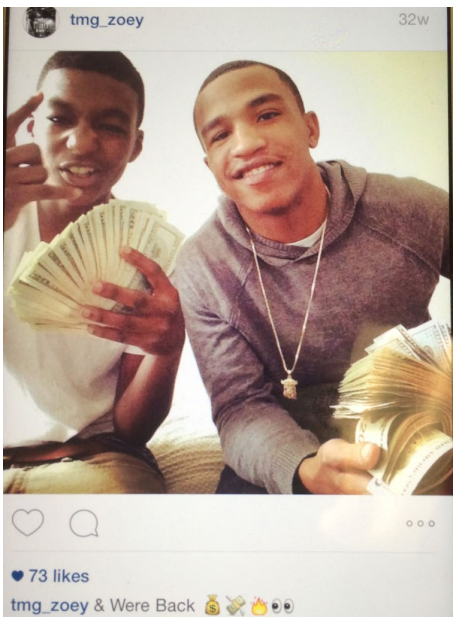
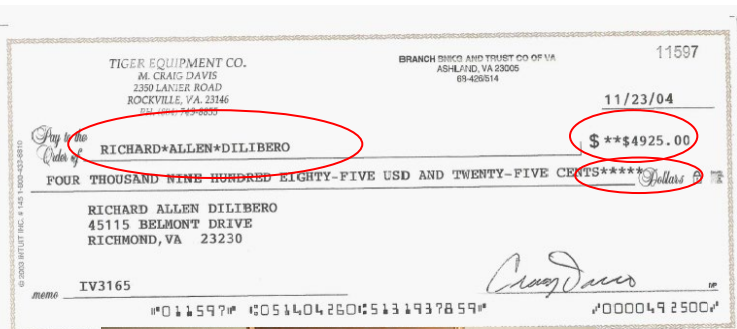
Checks were:

Forged (Signature-If Stolen  
Blank)

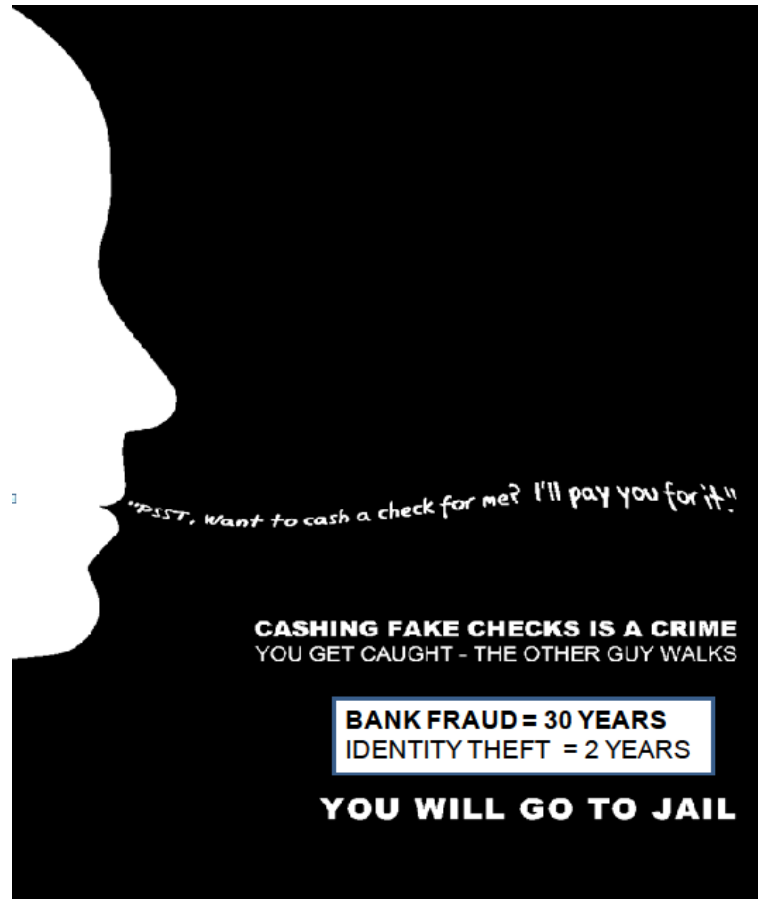
Forged (Endorsement)

Counterfeited

Washed or Scraped



# The Evolution of Check Cashing – Operation Homeless



*"PSSST, want to cash a check for me? I'll pay you for it!"*

**CASHING FAKE CHECKS IS A CRIME**  
YOU GET CAUGHT - THE OTHER GUY WALKS

**BANK FRAUD = 30 YEARS**  
**IDENTITY THEFT = 2 YEARS**

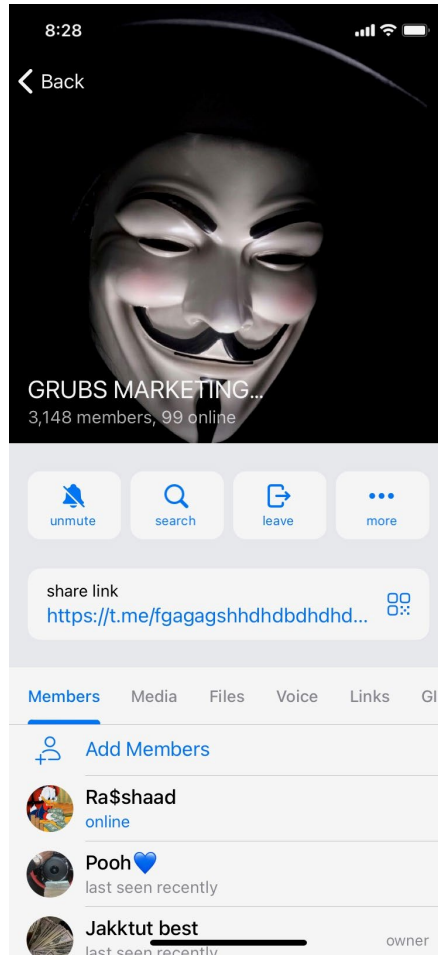
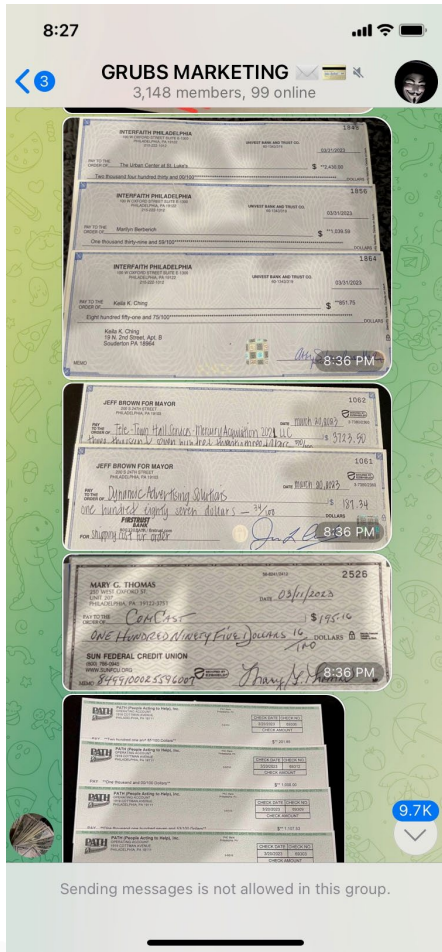
**YOU WILL GO TO JAIL**



To report suspicious activity, call the  
U.S. Postal Inspection Service toll free  
1-877-876-2455



# The Evolution of Check Cashing – Now



# Why Check Cashing?

- Easier than other Types of Crime
- Usually, the Cashier Does Not Immediately Get Caught
- Too Many Cashiers for LE to Handle
- Limited Prosecution
- Low Loss Amounts
- As One Check “Cook” Recently Said, “This is Easy Money.”

# Types of Identity Theft

- Fraudulent Applications
- Account Takeover
- Credit Card Fraud
- Check Fraud
- Merchant Fraud

# Fraudulent Change of Address

- Identity thieves are submitting online requests to redirect a postal customer's mail.
- The victim's mail is diverted to an address under the thief's control.
- Personal info used to steal customer's identity.
- Postal Inspectors can link a suspect to a fraudulent online request.
- USPIS databases can identify additional victims.

# Fraudulent Change of Address

## How to Prevent It?

### Online

Change of address requests can be submitted online at: <https://moversguide.usps.com/>

To improve online security and mitigate potential fraud, a multi-factor process for online Change of Address requests is required:

1. A mobile phone number verification may be required, and a One-Time-Passcode or verification link will be texted to your cell phone.
2. A \$1.10 credit card identity verification fee will be charged to your credit card. The billing address on the credit card must match either the old or the new address used in the COA request. Prepaid cards and gift cards are not accepted.

**If online identity verification is not successful, you will be directed to eligible Post Office™ locations able to verify your identity in person.**

An email address is required for online COA submission. Military addresses are eligible; if you are moving from a military address, your email address must end in .gov, .mil, or .edu.

Military customers moving from an APO/FPO/DPO should work with military officials to change their address and assist with mail forwarding.

International addresses (moving to an international address) are not eligible for an online change of address. Please visit a Post Office to request a change of address to an international address.

### In Person

If your online identity verification was not successful, or if you do not wish to complete a change of address online, you may complete a change of address in person at a Post Office.

#### Online Identity Verification Failure:

You will receive an email with instructions and a barcode to verify your identity in person at a Post Office. See below for required identification.

#### At a Post Office:

Request a change of address form from a Retail clerk at a Post Office. **Please bring one of the following photo identifications with you that is current and unexpired:**

- State issued driver's license or non-driver's license identification card (name and address must match the old or new address on your request)
- Uniformed Services Identification Card (requires a secondary form of identification)
- U.S. Passport (requires a secondary form of identification)

#### Secondary Forms of Identification:

It is recommended that you bring a secondary form of identification with you, such as:

- Lease, mortgage or deed of trust
- Voter or vehicle registration card
- Home or vehicle insurance policy or card

The name and address on any secondary identification must match the old or new address on your change of address request.



# What Do We Charge Them With?

- 18 USC 1708 – Possession of Stolen Mail
- 18 USC 1704 – Possession of Keys/Locks, Stolen/Reproduced
- 18 USC 1029 – Fraud and Related Activity in Connection with Access Devices
- 18 USC 1028(A) – Aggravated Identity Theft
- 18 USC 1344 – Bank Fraud

# Not all Doom and Gloom...



## Department of Justice

United States Attorney Jessica D. Aber  
Eastern District of Virginia

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
February 16, 2024  
[EDVA.gov](http://EDVA.gov) | [@EDVAnews](https://twitter.com/EDVAnews)

Contact: Press Officer  
[USAVAE.Press@usdoj.gov](mailto:USAVAE.Press@usdoj.gov)

### Richmond Man Convicted of Mail Theft and Bank Fraud Scheme

RICHMOND, Va. – A Richmond man pleaded guilty today to conspiring to carry out a bank fraud scheme that targeted victims whose personal and financial information the defendant and his co-conspirators had obtained by stealing mail from United States Postal Service (USPS) mailboxes.

According to court documents, Olden Ellerbe III, 24, conspired with other individuals to steal or otherwise unlawfully obtain U.S. mail, sometimes using stolen or otherwise misappropriated USPS “arrow” keys, which unlock all Postal Service blue collection boxes within a given geographic area. Ellerbe and his co-conspirators obtained the personal and financial information of numerous victims through these mail thefts and misappropriations, and utilized that stolen information to fraudulently withdraw funds from those victims’ accounts at local banking institutions.

Ellerbe and his co-conspirators targeted the victims’ financial accounts through a variety of means, to include creating fictitious checks drafted on the victims’ bank accounts; utilizing the victims’ stolen debit and/or credit cards to withdraw funds from the victims’ bank accounts; and applying for loans in the names of these victims (and then withdrawing the fraudulently obtained loan proceeds with the victims’ stolen debit cards).

At the time of his arrest on November 15, 2023, Ellerbe and another conspirator had just completed the final transaction in a series of fraudulent withdrawals—amounting to a total of \$85,000—from a victim’s bank account. Ellerbe possessed both a Glock handgun and numerous items stolen from the U.S. mail, including 83 stolen checks, \$59,940 in U.S. currency, nine stolen credit or debit cards, and six stolen U.S. savings bonds.

Ellerbe is scheduled to be sentenced on August 19. He faces a maximum penalty of 35 years in prison. Actual sentences for federal crimes are typically less than the maximum penalties. A federal district court judge will determine any sentence after considering the U.S. Sentencing Guidelines and other statutory factors.



## Department of Justice

United States Attorney Jessica D. Aber  
Eastern District of Virginia

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
October 25, 2023  
[EDVA.gov](http://EDVA.gov) | [@EDVAnews](https://twitter.com/EDVAnews)

Contact: Press Officer  
[USAVAE.Press@usdoj.gov](mailto:USAVAE.Press@usdoj.gov)

### Convicted Felon Sentenced for Pandemic Fraud and Firearm Offenses

NEWPORT NEWS, Va. – A man who formerly resided in Hampton was sentenced today to 2 years in prison for his role in a fraud conspiracy as well as illegally possessing firearms as a convicted felon.

According to court documents, from about May 2020 through September 2021, Jovaughn E. Turner, 21, joined others to submit fraudulent claims for pandemic-related benefits and counterfeit checks stolen from the mail. Turner and his coconspirators ran the fraud operation from an apartment they rented in Hampton. The apartment – filled with proceeds of the fraud – was burglarized multiple times by a local gang. On September 26, 2021, a would-be robber approached Turner outside the apartment and brandished a firearm. Turner shot and killed the man in self-defense.

Following the shooting, police executed a search warrant at Turner’s apartment and located \$28,500 in cash, a laptop computer, a special printer for counterfeiting checks, a money-counting machine, check stock paper, and a magnetic reader/writer/encoder for making credit and debit cards. Police also located approximately 20 counterfeit and stolen checks drawn against the bank accounts of businesses across the country.

In addition to check fraud, the defendant and his coconspirators submitted fraudulent claims for pandemic-related unemployment benefits during the COVID-19 public health crisis. Turner claimed to have worked at Wendy’s and Prime Now LLC and falsely represented that he lost his employment because of the pandemic. In fact, he only worked briefly for these employers and voluntarily abandoned both jobs.

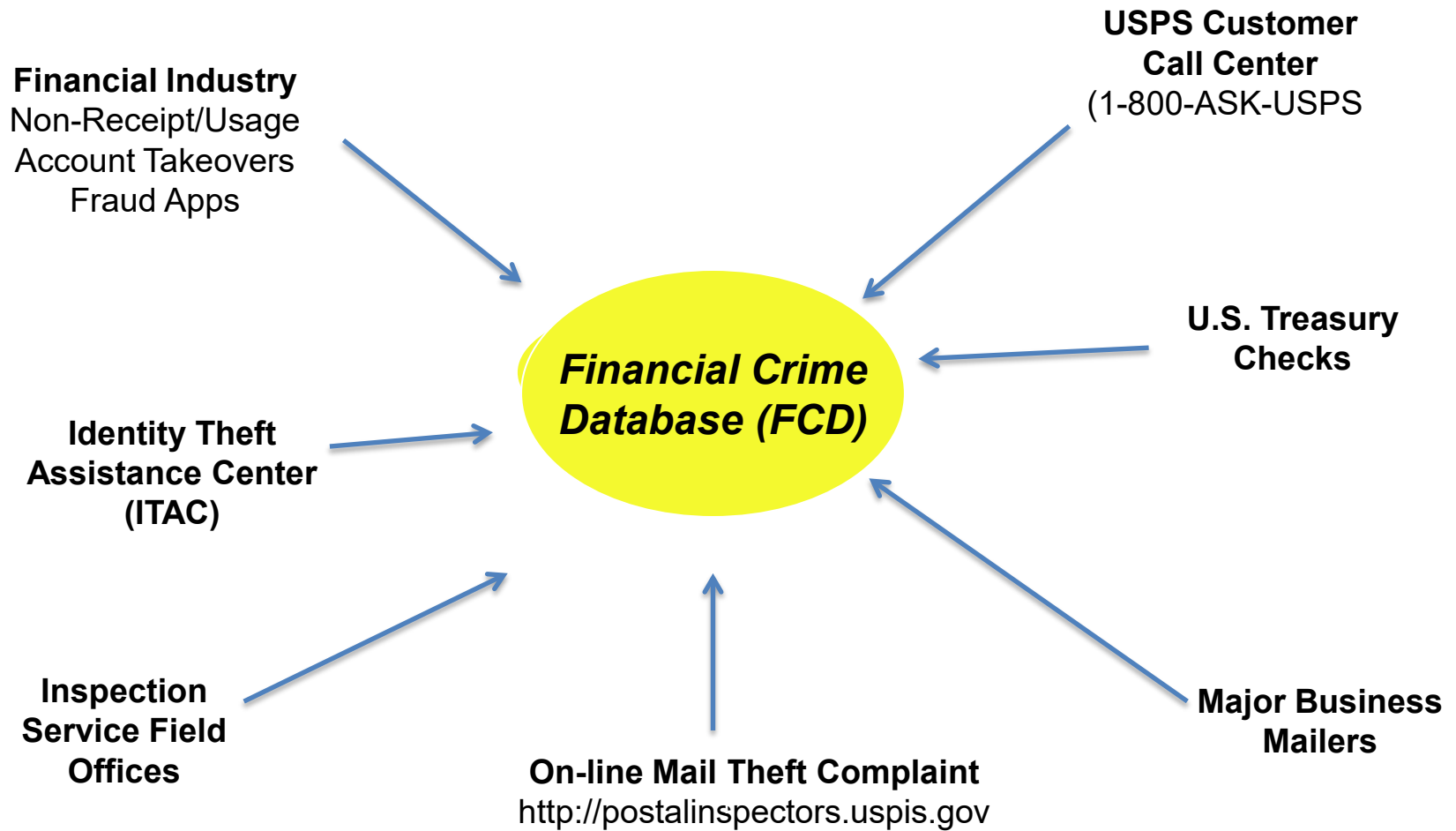
In addition to illegally possessing a firearm on September 26, 2021, when he shot and killed the would-be robber, he was again found in possession of a firearm during a traffic stop in Chesapeake on December 30, 2021. Police recovered a loaded Glock .40 caliber handgun under the driver seat during a search of the vehicle Turner was driving.



# How Can USPS Help Other LE?

- Address Checks
- Address Intelligence – Mail History
- Change of address information
- Controlled deliveries
- PO box/Commercial Mail Receiving Agency (CMRA) information
- Search warrants (for mail)
- Financial Crimes Database analysis
- Mail Covers

# USPIS FCD – Sources of Information



# Reporting Financial Crimes

- Reporting mail/ID theft or financial crimes:
  - USPIS website at [postalinspectors.uspis.gov](https://postalinspectors.uspis.gov)
  - Call USPIS at (877)876-2455
- Complaints are entered into USPIS Financial Crimes Database (FCD)



Postal Inspector/Team Leader Marydith Newman

[MJNewman@uspis.gov](mailto:MJNewman@uspis.gov)

**IS HOTLINE 877-876-2455**