



PRESS NOTICE

BILL NETTLES
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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MEMBERS OF COUNTERFEIT CHECK CONSPIRACY SENTENCED

Columbia, South Carolina ---- United States Attorney Bill Nettles stated today that Robert Larmie, age 36, of Lawrenceville, Georgia, and Garworth Williams, age 41, of Charlotte, North Carolina, were sentenced today in federal court in Anderson, for a conspiracy to steal mail and create counterfeit checks, a violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 371. Senior United States District Judge G. Ross Anderson, Jr. sentenced Larmie to 33 months imprisonment and Williams to 51 months imprisonment. Both men are required to pay over \$40,000 in restitution to the victims of their crimes.

Evidence presented at the change of plea hearing established that on August 3, 2011, in Spartanburg County, local police officers attempted to make a

traffic stop on a vehicle driven by Garworth Williams. As officers approached the vehicle and attempted to make contact with Williams, the vehicle fled the area and a car chase ensued. Speeds exceeded one-hundred (100) miles an hour during the chase.

Officers saw a “stack or papers” thrown from the passenger window of the vehicle where Robert Larmie was sitting. The vehicle was eventually stopped and the occupants arrested. Following the chase route and where they had seen items thrown from the vehicle, officers found checks and other letters that had been stolen from the mail. The mail had been stolen from various locations in South Carolina and Georgia.

Officers also recovered a laptop computer that had been thrown out of the car. A forensic examination revealed versa check software and scanned-in copies of checks that had been stolen from the mail. The exam revealed that Larmie and Williams were altering the checks and printing them. When officers searched Larmie, they discovered a copy of a counterfeit check in the amount of \$126,000.00 in his pocket.

The case was investigated by agents of the Spartanburg County Sheriff’s Office, United States Secret Service, and the United States Postal Inspection Service. Assistant United States Attorney Bill Watkins of the Greenville office handled the case.

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