



NEWS RELEASE

September 21, 2010

Contact: Lynn Kimbrough, 720-913-9025

13 INDICTED IN COUNTERFEIT CHECK SCAM OPERATION

A Denver Grand Jury has returned a 33-count indictment charging 13 people in connection with a counterfeit check operation in the metro area. The indictment is the result of an investigation launched by the US Postal Inspection Service involving the Colorado Bureau of Investigation, the Aurora Police Department and the Denver DA's Office.

April Cotton (DOB: 11-30-72) and **Derik Romero** (DOB: 6-01-84) are charged by indictment with violating the Colorado Organized Crime Control Act (COCCA) (F 2) and numerous other felony counts including computer crime (F3), theft (F3), identity theft (F4) and contributing to the delinquency of a minor (F4).

Jason Forn (DOB: 03-21-1981), **Quiana Brooks** (DOB: 03-23-90), **Regina Abram** (DOB: 07-07-82), **Maryah Castophney** (DOB: 08-04-87), **Oscar Johnson** (DOB: 11-22-80), **Danny Martinez** (DOB: 07-07-63), **Channell Smith** (DOB: 01-24-90), **Niesha Tidwell-Johnson** (DOB: 02-14-89), **Shaquwan Wright** (DOB: 08-08-91), **Ashli White** (DOB: 09-13-89), and **Tasha Yarbough** (DOB: 02-07-90) are also charged with numerous felony counts including *conspiracy, theft, identity theft, and forgery*. Regina Abram is also charged with *contributing to the delinquency of a minor* and Niesha Tidwell-Johnson is also charged with *aiding escape*.

The charges allege that these defendants were involved in an enterprise that created and used counterfeit and forged checks to steal money from grocery stores, retail stores, credit unions and banks. The charges further allege the group stole more than \$61,800 in approximately 6 weeks. More than \$360,000 in counterfeit checks were seized during the course of the investigation.

Two of the defendants, Abram and Martinez, remain at large. Court dates are in the process of being set for the others.