



DenverDA

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NEWS RELEASE

November 6, 2013

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TEN INDICTED IN MAIL THEFT, COUNTERFEIT CHECK OPERATION

A Denver Grand Jury has returned a 75-count indictment against ten people accused of running a racketeering operation that involved mail theft, auto theft and counterfeit checks, affecting more than 270 victims throughout the metro area.

Christopher Bahl (dob: 09-14-78) and **Gary Dean Crowther** (dob: 03-18-83) are each charged with violating the Colorado Organized Crime Control Act – COCCA (F2) and numerous other felony counts including conspiracy to commit computer crime, identity theft, forgery, and aggravated motor vehicle theft. Bahl is charged with COCCA and 48 other counts. Crowther is charged with COCCA and 30 other counts.

Eight others were also indicted for multiple felony counts including conspiracy to commit identity theft, forgery and computer crime.

The indictment alleges that Bahl and Crowther led a group of people whose common goal was to steal mail, break into cars and steal cars so they could then steal checks and commit identity theft. The group is accused of creating phony checks and identification and using them at local grocery stores, banks and other retail outlets, causing losses of more than \$100,000 between September 2012 and August 2013.

The indictment is the result of 11 months of work by the Metro Auto Theft Task Force, US Postal Inspection Service, East Metro Auto Theft Task Force, the Arvada, Westminster, Thornton and Aurora Police Departments and the Denver DA's Economic Crime Unit.

Bahl was already in custody with the Colorado Department of Corrections; Crowther was already in custody in Jefferson County. Their first Denver court dates have not yet been set.

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The filing of a criminal charge is merely a formal accusation that an individual(s) committed a crime(s) under Colorado laws. A defendant is presumed innocent until and unless proven guilty. See Colo. RPC 3.6

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