



NEWS RELEASE –

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Contact: Ken Lane, 720-913-9025

GRAND JURY INDICTS 11 IN STOLEN MAIL/COUNTERFEIT CHECKS/DRUG RING Multiple Agencies Collaborate in Investigation Resulting in Indictment

A Denver Grand Jury has returned a 186-count indictment against 11 people in connection with an alleged stolen mail/counterfeit checks/drugs ring operating in the Denver area.

The indictment is the result of a months-long investigation and collaboration by the Denver District Attorney's Economic Crime Unit, Denver Police Department, U.S. Postal Inspection Service, Colorado Bureau of Investigation, Black Hawk Police Department, FBI Rocky Mountain Safe Streets Task Force, Arapahoe County Sheriff's Office and Jefferson County Sheriff's Office.

Sean Jones (dob: 03-18-1981) and **Kathleen Cooke** (dob: 04-27-1969) are each charged with one count of violation of the *Colorado Organized Crime Control Act-COCCA* (F2). Jones and Cooke and the following co-defendants are additionally variously charged with multiple counts of other felonies, including *conspiracy to commit identify theft* (F5), *identity theft* (F4), *forgery* (F5), *theft* (F5, F6), *criminal attempt to commit theft* (F6), *criminal possession of a financial device* (F5) and *criminal impersonation* (F6): **Andrea Bentley** (dob: 01-21-1991), **Danielle Bentley** (dob: 01-21-1991), **Jackie Carr** (dob: 01-20-1958), **Pamela Fairchild** (dob: 12-19-1960), **Latosca Hults** (dob: 12-19-1982), **Averi Jordan** (dob: 09-19-1996), **Mark Lamere** (dob: 02-22-1975), **Alan Mill** (dob: 12-27-1983), and **Shawn Rowland** (dob: 08-13-1969). The indictment was handed down May 17.

The indictment alleges that beginning in April 2016 Jones and Cooke led a criminal racketeering enterprise that included the named co-defendants and others to steal mail (aka "schwack" in street slang) containing identifying information and personal and business checks, used victims' identities and altered, made and distributed stolen and/or counterfeit checks, using computers, computer programs, forgery devices and other tools to generate the counterfeit and/or altered checks, which checks were then cashed or attempted to be cashed at numerous banks and credit unions in the Denver area. The defendants allegedly bought, sold, traded and bartered among each other the stolen personal and financial information and checks in exchange for drugs, mostly methamphetamine and heroin, and also bought, sold and traded the drugs among themselves.

The defendants collectively stole more than \$100,000 while committing ID theft, forgery and theft at financial institutions, utilizing the stolen personal and financial information and/or financial devices of more than 400 people and business entities.

The alleged ringleaders Jones and Cooke are in custody or arrested, as are the Bentley sisters, Mill, Jordan and Rowland. Cooke was allegedly about to cash more counterfeits with new accomplices at the time of her arrest Monday afternoon.