

**News Release from  
The Honorable Sandra Doorley  
Monroe County District Attorney**

November 1, 2019

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**John Howard, Jr. Convicted on 54 Counts of Criminal Possession of a Forged Instrument Charges**

Rochester, NY- Friday, November 1, 2019, a Monroe County Jury convicted 49-year-old John Howard, Jr. of 25 counts of Criminal Possession of a Forged Instrument in the First Degree for manufacturing and possessing 25 counterfeit bills of United States currency and 29 counts of Criminal Possession of a Forged Instrument in the Second Degree for creating and possessing 29 fraudulent checks. He was also convicted on 1 count of Criminal Possession of a Weapon in the Fourth Degree for possessing a rifle as a convicted felon.

On July 28, 2018, the Rochester Police Department responded to the defendant's home on Joseph Avenue in the City of Rochester, where they seized 20 fraudulent checks in response to a call for a domestic violence incident. The Monroe County Sheriff's Office, with the assistance of Greater Rochester Area Narcotics Enforcement Team (GRANET), responded to his home a second time on February 12, 2019 to execute a search warrant of the premises, where they discovered a full counterfeiting operation, seizing 25 completed counterfeit bills and 9 additional fraudulent checks, along with an illegally possessed rifle.

The case was prosecuted by Senior Assistant District Attorney Jacob Ark of the Economic Crimes Bureau.

"Had these counterfeit checks not been seized by police, banks and small businesses would have suffered tens of thousands of dollars in losses," said Assistant District Attorney Jacob Ark. "Thank you to the Monroe County Sheriff's Economic Crimes Unit, the Rochester Police Department and GRANET for their thorough and effective investigation into this matter."

"This conviction is another example of the Monroe County District Attorney's Office commitment to combat crime within every sphere of our community," said District Attorney Sandra Doorley. "Thank you to the various branches of law enforcement involved for their collaborative efforts to make this prosecution successful."

John Howard, Jr. will be sentenced on December 4, 2019 in front of New York State Supreme Court Justice Alex Renzi. He is facing up to 15 years in the New York State Department of Corrections.

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