



Office of the Sheriff

MONROE COUNTY
"ONE TEAM"



Sheriff Todd K. Baxter

Undersheriff Korey K. Brown

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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MCSO ECONOMIC CRIME UNIT MAKES ARREST IN \$10,000 FRAUDULENT CHECK AND COUNTERFEIT BILL SCHEME

Investigators Charge Predicate Felon

Rochester, NY (February 13, 2019) – On February 12, 2019, at 10:26 a.m., Monroe County Sheriff's investigators with the Economic Crimes Unit and MCSO deputies, in collaboration with GRANET, Rochester Police, and the United States Secret Service, made an arrest in a more than \$10,000 fraudulent check and counterfeit bill scheme.

On yesterday's date, MCSO Investigators executed a search warrant at 1070 Joseph Ave., Rochester. Investigators Eric Mezzoprete and Greg Prokop identified predicate felon John C. Howard, 48, Rochester as the individual responsible for creating fraudulent checks, recruiting others to negotiate the checks and profiting off of a percentage of the proceeds. The known loss resulting from the passing of the checks totals more than \$10,000 over the course of a year-long investigation. Howard was arrested and taken into custody.

Investigators charged Howard with 25 counts of Criminal Possession of a Forged Instrument in the 1st degree (C-Felony) and one count Criminal Possession of a Weapon in the 3rd degree (D-Felony). Howard was arraigned in Rochester City Court on today's date and remanded to the Monroe County Jail without bail.

Howard, John C.

48 years old
Rochester

Charges:

- 25 counts of Criminal Possession of a Forged Instrument in the 1st degree (C-Felony)
- Criminal Possession of a Weapon in the 3rd degree (D-Felony)



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The search warrant resulted in the confiscation of check-making equipment to include computer(s), printer(s), check stock and magnetic ink. Investigators also seized at least 25 counterfeit bills, consisting of \$100, \$50, and \$20 bills, as well as a Savage model 12.204 caliber bolt action rifle.

“I am especially proud of MCSO Economic Crime Unit Investigators Eric Mezzoprete and Greg Prokop, as well as Deputies Michael Favata, Edward Boss, and William Connell for their diligent police work that culminated over the course of a year, resulting in an arrest,” said Sheriff Todd K. Baxter. “Our deputies did not relent. Thank you to our partnering law enforcement agencies for your assistance and perseverance in helping to get a predicate felon off the streets.”

Howard was convicted of 2nd degree Murder in 1990. Howard’s next court appearance is scheduled for February 15, 2019 at 10:30 a.m.

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