



Office of the Sheriff

MONROE COUNTY
"ONE TEAM"



Sheriff Todd K. Baxter

Undersheriff Korey K. Brown

130 SOUTH PLYMOUTH AVENUE, ROCHESTER, NY 14614

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICER: Sgt. Matthew Bottone

Monroe County Sheriff's Office

130 S. Plymouth Ave.

Rochester, NY 14614

MCSOCommunications@monroecounty.gov

MCSO INVESTIGATES ONGOING COUNTERFEIT MONEY SCHEME

Anyone with Information Encouraged to Call MCSO Tip Line: 585-753-4175

Rochester, NY (January 21, 2020) – The Monroe County Sheriff's Office is investigating a string of counterfeit \$50 bills being passed throughout the county. Between 10/25/19 and 11/21/19, MCSO identified Hilton Johns, 24, Rochester, as a suspect in producing and distributing counterfeit \$50 bills. On 12/5/19, the MCSO Economic Crimes Unit arrested Johns, charging him with four (4) counts of Criminal Possession of a Forged Instrument (CPFI) in the 1st degree (Class C - Felony) for possessing and passing counterfeit \$50 bills to various merchants throughout the county. Mr. Johns was arraigned and released to the Ontario County Sheriff's Office on an outstanding bench warrant for failing to attend court on an unrelated incident. Mr. Johns was subsequently released by the OCSO on 12/6/19. On the same day, 12/6/19, Brighton Police then arrested Johns for CPFI 1st. Again, he was arraigned and released.

The courts released Mr. Johns, due to the nature of the CPFI 1st charge falling under the new criminal justice reform laws, on the least restrictive type of monitoring. From 12/7/19 to present, Hilton Johns has continued to pass counterfeit \$50 bills to merchants throughout the county. Johns has since been positively identified in five (5) CPFI 1st investigations and is suspected as having involvement in no less than 10 other investigations involving multiple law enforcement agencies from Monroe County to Onondaga County.

Approximately 60 counterfeit \$50 bills have been passed and reported between 10/25/19 and 1/16/20. As of today, three (3) bench warrants have been issued for Mr. Johns for failing to appear in court as scheduled at arraignment and upon his release without bail being set.

The Monroe County Sheriff's Office is continuing this investigation and is asking the public and merchants to be on the lookout for counterfeit \$50 bills. Anyone with information is asked to call the MCSO Tip Line: (585) 753-4175.



WE ARE PROFESSIONALS
WWW.MONROECOUNTYSHERIFF.INFO





Johns, Hilton

Age: 24

Rochester, NY

###

