



# LEON COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Walt McNeil, Sheriff

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[www.leoncountysos.com](http://www.leoncountysos.com)

***FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE***

**Media Contact:** Lt. Grady Jordan

**Date:** June 14, 2017

## LCSO Financial Crimes Unit Links Suspect to Million Dollar Fraud Scheme

In January 2017, The Leon County Sheriff's Office Financial Crimes Unit began an investigation into a fraudulent Green Dot card scheme involving a cashier at the Wal-Mart located at 4400 W. Tennessee Street. The cashier had provided 56 Green Dot cards with a value of \$28,000 to two black male suspects. The suspects left the Wal-Mart and went to several grocery stores in Tallahassee and throughout Georgia to purchase money orders with the Green Dot cards. Through the course of the investigation Michael Battle 26, of Atlanta, GA was identified as a suspect. When the money orders were cashed out, some show Battle as the payee and/or the payer.

LCSO Financial Crimes Unit, worked with other law enforcement agencies around the country, as well as, Wal-Mart Global Investigations, to link Battle to a much larger nationwide scheme with a loss exceeding a million dollars.

Battle was arrested in Atlanta, GA for warrants issued by Augusta Police Department for a similar case. He has been transferred to the Richmond County (GA) Sheriff's Office Jail. Battle is being detained in the Richmond County (GA) Sheriff's Office Jail on the outstanding LCSO warrants awaiting extradition back to Leon County.

This case remains an active investigation and future criminal charges against additional suspects are possible.

### **WANTED:**

Michael Battle 26 years of age – Racketeering, Money Laundering, Organized Scheme to Defraud \$20,000 to \$50,000, Grand Theft \$20,000 to \$100,000, Bank Fraud, Fraudulent Use of Credit Card



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