

LEON COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

RELEASE OF PUBLIC INFORMATION



Larry Campbell, Sheriff

Leon County Sheriff's Office
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LCSO Arrests Two in Fraud Case

The Leon County Sheriff's Office has arrested two people and charged them in connection with passing dozens of counterfeit checks at several area grocery stores. LCSO's Financial Crimes Detectives have been following up on the counterfeit checks for weeks. Tuesday, Detective Ben Benedict arrested Casey Bennett, 28, after he tracked Bennett from the Southwood Publix to the Publix at 777 Capital Circle SW. Bennett was arrested after passing a bad check there also. She was interviewed in reference to this case and admitted her involvement.

Later the same day, Sharonda Johnson, 27, was arrested after she tried to pass a counterfeit check at an area Harvey's Supermarket. Johnson fled the scene in a vehicle when store employees tried to stop her. She struck another vehicle as she fled and was eventually arrested for the traffic related offenses when her vehicle became disabled. Detectives interviewed Johnson in reference to the check cases and she admitted her involvement also.

Detectives say the women were working together in this scheme and had passed checks totaling more than \$6,500.00. Both Bennett and Johnson were writing some of the checks for cash and purchasing gift cards and groceries with the others.

Detectives say the investigation is continuing and additional charges are likely.

ARRESTED:

Casey Bennett
DOB: 04/29/1982

Charges:

Organized Scheme to Defraud (1 count)
Possession of a Counterfeit Payment Instrument (31 counts)
Grand Theft (1 count)
Criminal Use of Personal Identification Information (1 count)
Possession of Drug Paraphernalia (1 count)
4 warrants for Violation of Probation on similar charges

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Sharonda Johnson
DOB: 11/16/1983

Charges:

Organized Scheme to Defraud (1 count)

Grand Theft (1 count)

Uttering a Forged Instrument (15 counts)

Possession of a Counterfeit Payment Instrument (4 counts)

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