Fayette County Sheriff's Office
Sheriff Barry H. Babb
PRESS RELEASE- June 27, 2023

Two Individuals Arrested in Connection to Check Fraud

FAYETTE COUNTY, GA- On 20 June 2023, Fayette County Sheriff's Office Investigators executed a search warrant at 500 Oak Street, Fayetteville, Georgia. A joint investigation between Fayette County Sheriff's Office and East Baton Rouge Sheriff's Office identified suspects in a check fraud scheme which included victims throughout the State of Georgia and surrounding states.

Fayette County Sheriff's Office Investigators have attributed this type of crime to the theft of checks from the mail system. The stolen checks are often duplicated and marketed through social media applications and mobile deposited into "ghost accounts".

The investigation revealed the residents at 500 Oak Street to be operating what law enforcement refers to as a "paper plant" and otherwise known as the manufacturing of fictitious checks. Fayette County Sheriff's Office Investigators uncovered over $80,000 in fictitious checks and numerous stolen identities being utilized to defraud the U.S. financial system during the early stages of the investigation.

Currently, Rydrickus Daniels (33) of Fayetteville, GA and Melaney Cooper (34) of Fayetteville, GA are being held in the Fayette County Jail charged with Identity Fraud, Exploitation of Elder Persons, and Forgery 2nd Degree and Manufacturing Fictitious Documents. The investigation is still on-going and additional charges are pending.