



Fayette County Sheriff's Office

Barry Babb, Sheriff **January 27, 2014**

Press Information

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Between November 2012 and January 2014, the Fayette County Sheriff's Office investigated over 30 identity theft transactions with a similar modus operandi. The transactions involved Fayette County victim's routing and account numbers being stolen or copied from their checks then printed onto counterfeit checks bearing a fake identity. After the counterfeit checks were created, the perpetrators had access to the victim's funds by using a fake ID matching the one printed on the check. The counterfeit checks were then passed at large retailers throughout the southeastern United States. Fayette County checking account numbers were being passed in cities from Huntsville, Alabama to Greenville, South Carolina.

Detectives wanted to identify where the account numbers were being stolen from. They were able to locate the common point of compromise with the assistance of victims who graciously responded to electronic surveys of their check writing activity and then submitted months of their personal bank records for examination. The assistance of a national check processing company was critical in locating the individual stealing the numbers. The point of compromise was narrowed a local grocery store and further isolated to one individual after the perpetrator made admissions during interviews with officers. 29 Year old Catraya Vogt of Fairburn was arrested and charged with 15 counts of identity theft. Her accomplice, 28 year old Douglas Allen of Jonesboro was also arrested and charged with 15 counts of identity theft. It is alleged Vogt collected the account numbers then sent them to Allen before the counterfeit checks were printed.

****Please attribute any quotes or statements to Sheriff Barry Babb****