



Date: October 11, 2022
Time: 4:00 PM

From the Office of:
Kyle Murphy, Chief of Police

MEDIA RELEASE

Retail Theft / Stolen Property Fencing Investigation

The Wilmette Police Department with the assistance of Homeland Security Investigations, Chicago Police Department, Will County Police Assistance Team, Shorewood Police, Will County State's Attorney, Illinois Department of Revenue, California Highway Patrol, and the Illinois State Police concluded a yearlong undercover investigation into a sophisticated retail theft fencing operation. Law Enforcement agencies worked with private sector retail partners from Kroger's Organized Retail Crime Unit, the CVS Organized Retail Crime Team, Walgreens, and Target; these organizations provided valuable support during the criminal investigation. This investigation began after retail thefts in Wilmette led to the identification of a fencing ring for stolen merchandise operating in Chicago. A cooperative multi-jurisdictional investigation was initiated after these thefts were linked to ongoing retail thefts occurring in Shorewood and Will County.

On Thursday October 6, 2022, law enforcement officers executed twelve search warrants in Chicago, Cicero, Oak Lawn, Bolingbrook and three in California resulting in the recovery of an estimated \$7.5 million dollars' worth of retail products and evidence of a sophisticated criminal enterprise.

Merchandise stolen from retail establishments throughout the Chicagoland area and surrounding suburbs was brought to the defendants by retail theft offenders. The defendants knowingly purchased the stolen property at their storefront locations in Chicago. The defendants brought the stolen merchandise to various locations throughout Chicago where they removed identifying retailer information from the items. The defendants then would ship the items in pallet form to the East and West coast. This investigation identified the suspects taking in stolen retail products including over the counter medications which they would then ship to online co-defendant e-commerce merchants in California and third-party distributors in New York who introduced these products back into the supply chain. The defendants established numerous accounts with multiple banks and financial institutions in attempts to conceal the origin of the funds and utilized the illegal proceeds to make purchases including multiple residential properties and fund the continued operation of their financial crimes enterprise.



The following eight subjects were arrested:

BEALS, Michael O.

41-Year-Old Male

LKA: 797 Barclay Dr, Bolingbrook

- (1) Felony Count of Continuing Financial Crimes Enterprise (720 ILCS 5/17-10.6(h))
- (1) Felony Count of Failure to File an Income Tax Return (35 ILCS 5/1301)

Bond: \$ 500,000D

Court: 11:00 AM on October 26, 2022, in Room 405, Will County Courthouse

HAMAD, Hani H.

51-Year-Old Male

LKA: 4312 S. Rockwell #2, Chicago

- (1) Felony Count of Theft (720 ILCS 5/16-1(a)(1)(A) and (b)(6.1))
- (1) Felony Count of Money Laundering (720 ILCS 5/29B-1(a)(1)(B)(i) and (c)(5))
- (1) Felony Count of Wire Fraud (720 ILCS 5/17-24(b)(1) and (2)(B) and (c)(2))
- (1) Felony Count of Filing a Fraudulent Income Tax Return (35 ILCS 5/1301))

Bond: \$ 1,000,000D

Court: 11:00 AM on October 26, 2022, in Room 405, Will County Courthouse

HAMAD, laad H.

48-Year-Old Male

LKA: 5209 Oak St, Oak Lawn

- (1) Felony Count of Organizer of a Continuing Financial Crimes Enterprise (720 ILCS 5/17-10.6(i)(1)(A)(ii))
- (1) Felony Count of Theft (720 ILCS 5/16-1(a)(1)(A) and (b)(6.1))
- (1) Felony Count of Money Laundering (720 ILCS 5/29B-1(a)(1)(B)(i) and (c)(5))
- (1) Felony Count of Failure to File an Income Tax Return (35 ILCS 5/1301)

Bond: \$ 1,000,000D

Court: 11:00 AM on October 26, 2022, in Room 405, Will County Courthouse



HAMLIN, Fe Keisha L.

41-Year-Old Female

LKA: 797 Barclay Dr, Bolingbrook

- (1) Felony Count of Theft (720 ILCS 5/16-1(a)(1)(A) and (b)(4.1))
- (1) Felony Count of Money Laundering (720 ILCS 5/29B-1(a)(1)(B)(i) and (c)(2))
- (1) Felony Count of Filing a Fraudulent Income Tax Return (35 ILCS 5/1301))

Bond: \$ 250,000D

Court: 11:00 AM on October 26, 2022, in Room 405, Will County Courthouse

SPENCER, Markell

35-Year-Old Male

LKA: 3315 W. Roosevelt Rd, Chicago

- (1) Felony Count of Continuing Financial Crimes Enterprise (720 ILCS 5/17-10.6(h))
- (1) Felony Count of Money Laundering Conspiracy (720 ILCS 5/29B-1(a)(1)(B)(i) and (c)(3) and (5/8-2))

Bond: \$ 250,000D

Court: 9:00 AM on October 26, 2022, in Room 405, Will County Courthouse

BRYANT, Dylan P.

28-Year-Old Male

LKA: 109 Gardenview, Irvine, California

- (1) Felony Count of Theft (720 ILCS 5/16-1(a)(4)(A) and (b)(6.3))
- (1) Felony Count of Money Laundering (720 ILCS 5/29B-1(a)(1)(B)(i) and (c)(5))
- (1) Felony Count of Money Laundering Conspiracy (720 ILCS 5/29B-1(a)(1)(B)(i) and (c)(2) and (5/8-2))

Bond: \$ 750,000D

Court: TBD

KIMBALL, Donald R.

27-Year-Old Male

LKA: 31 Gramercy, Irvine, California



- (1) Felony Count of Theft (720 ILCS 5/16-1(a)(4)(A) and (b)(6.2))
- (1) Felony Count of Money Laundering (720 ILCS 5/29B-1(a)(1)(B)(i) and (c)(5))
- (1) Felony Count of Money Laundering Conspiracy (720 ILCS 5/29B-1(a)(1)(B)(i) and (c)(2) and (5/8-2))

Bond: \$ 500,000D
Court: TBD

PENDLETON, Brett F.

26-Year-Old Male

LKA: 811 Paularino Ave #H, Costa Mesa, California

- (1) Felony Count of Theft (720 ILCS 5/16-1(a)(4)(A) and (b)(6.3))
- (1) Felony Count of Money Laundering (720 ILCS 5/29B-1(a)(1)(B)(i) and (c)(5))
- (1) Felony Count of Money Laundering Conspiracy (720 ILCS 5/29B-1(a)(1)(B)(i) and (c)(3) and (5/8-2))

Bond: \$ 750,000D
Court: TBD