



NEWS RELEASE

OCEAN CITY POLICE DEPARTMENT

OCEAN CITY, MARYLAND



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For Immediate Release:

OCPD NABS TWO SUSPECTS IN COUNTERFEIT SCHEME

On July 1, 2010 at approximately 8:40 p.m., Ocean City Police responded to a downtown boardwalk business that had received four suspected counterfeit \$20 bills. After establishing that the money was in fact counterfeit, Ocean City Police officers were able to establish two initial suspects, who were later identified as Nicole Aynette Branham, 27, of Dover, DE and Bianca Marie DeSimone, 32, of Dover, DE.

During the course of the investigation, Branham and DeSimone were located at a separate business,

attempting to pass additional counterfeit bills. Police were able to positively identify Branham and DeSimone as the individuals who passed the counterfeit \$20 bills. Branham and DeSimone were subsequently arrested and charged with four counts of Intent to Issue Counterfeit United States Currency.

In addition to the arrest, OCPD investigators served a search and seizure warrant at a downtown hotel where the two were staying. During the search of the hotel room, officers found additional counterfeit bills in the wallet of a third suspect. Charges have not yet been filed for the third suspect, however, Ocean City Police are continuing to investigate the incident.

The Ocean City Police Department is asking citizens and businesses to please inspect suspicious looking U.S. currency, particularly \$20 bills with serial number IA20912843A. The OCPD advises citizens real U.S. Currency has several security features. The three main security features located on \$20 bills are: shifting inks on the number \$20, security threads which display the denomination of the currency imbedded in the bill and the watermark of the main image on the face of the bill located on the right side of note.

If you have any information or think you may have counterfeit money, please contact your local police. For further information regarding counterfeit money identification go to:

http://www.secretservice.gov/know_your_money.shtml. Anyone with any information regarding this case, please contact the OCPD at 410-723-6610.

July 2, 2010



Bianca Marie DeSimone



Nicole Aynette Branham



Quite often, citizens' hunches turn out to be valuable information to us. If you have information that you feel we should know, we encourage you to leave us e-mail.

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