



SHERIFF

ALLEGHENY COUNTY

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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TWO MEN ARRESTED FOR SCAMMING CASH

Pittsburgh PA ---- Sheriff Kevin M. Kraus announced today that two men have been taken into custody in connection with a scam. The men posed as deputies and sergeants with the Sheriff's Office in order to coerce victims into giving them money they said was needed to pay fines for failing to appear in court as an "expert witness." The victims were threatened with being taken to jail if they did not provide the money.

The investigation began when a victim contacted our office in July saying they had lost approximately \$10,000 because of the scam. Two additional victims came forward shortly after that with one victim losing almost \$25,000 and the other losing more than \$8,000. Two of the victims paid cash and the third was instructed to transfer the money electronically using an app.

All of the victims gave the same description of the person they met, a middle-aged white male with grayish hair. Using surveillance footage, Allegheny County Sheriff's deputies were able to identify the actor and the vehicle used in the scam. Both the vehicle and the actor were traced to Georgia and an arrest warrant was issued for Richard Long of Ellenwood, Georgia. Long was subsequently taken into custody by the Gwinnett County Sheriff's Office.

Following Long's arrest, information was developed that identified a second suspect as Raquan Hardy of Anderson, South Carolina and that Hardy was present with Long at the time that the victims were contacted. An arrest warrant was issued for Hardy who was tracked into Broward County, Florida and Dallas, Texas before being taken into custody by Dallas Police. Authorities in both Broward County and Dallas plan to file their own set of charges.

Both Long and Hardy have been extradited and are in the Allegheny County Jail.

This is considered an open and ongoing investigation and if you believe that you may be a victim of this scam, call the Allegheny County Sheriff's Office at (412) 350-4714.

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