



PAULDING COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

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For Immediate Release

Credit Card Scam Uncovered in Paulding County

(Paulding County, GA) On October 29, 2014 Paulding County Sheriff's Deputies responded to the Darby's Crossing Office Complex (44 Darby's Crossing Drive Hiram, GA 30141) reference suspicious items that were located in an office. The owner of the complex was cleaning out an office that the tenant was being evicted from because he was behind on the rent. When Deputies arrived, they discovered an elaborate identity fraud/credit card manufacturing operation. Detectives with the Criminal Investigations Division located multiple credit cards, drivers licenses, credit card embossing machines, along with several different types of identity theft devices.

Once Paulding Detectives realized the scope of the operation, they immediately contacted the United States Secret Service to assist in the investigation. In total, 1,154 credit cards were located in the business. There were Visa, MasterCard, American Express, Discover, as well as multiple debit cards from different banks found. Detectives also located multiple Driver's Licenses from several different states that had been illegally manufactured.

Detectives were able to quickly arrest the suspect, Keith Michael Francis of Kennesaw, GA (B/M, 44 YOA), when he tried to come back and pick up his forgery equipment and credit cards. Francis is currently being held in the Paulding County Jail where he is charged with the following offenses:

- Forgery of Financial Transaction Cards (F)
- Manufacturing of False Identification Cards (F)
- Criminal Possession of Financial Transaction Card Forgery Devices (F)

Sheriff Gary Gulledge stated, "I have never seen a financial transaction card forgery operation as large scale and elaborate as this one. We are working closely



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with the United States Secret Service and the United States Attorney's Office in order to secure federal charges on this individual."

If you have any information about this financial transaction card/forgery operation, please call the Paulding County Sheriff's Office Criminal Investigations Division at (770) 443-3015.

