

NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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TWO MEN CHARGED IN CHECK COUNTERFEITING SCHEME

The Franconia Township Police Department has charged two men who cashed counterfeit payroll checks on Thursday, December 17, 2009.

Police were called to the Uninvest Bank at Harleysville Pike and Allentown Road at 2:05 p.m. after a group of up to ten men entered the bank at various intervals to cash payroll checks that appeared to have been issued by a local business. Bank personnel became suspicious of the unusual amount of checks being submitted and by the print quality of the checks.

When a bank employee received verification from the business that they had not issued the checks, the men immediately left the bank. They left in several vehicles that were waiting in parking lots across Allentown Road. An alert citizen, who noticed that the occupants of one vehicle were acting suspiciously, recorded the license plate number and provided it to police when they arrived.

Within minutes of hearing the police radio broadcast of the vehicle description, a Souderton police officer stopped that vehicle on Main Street in the borough. Francisco Beccero, 24, of Wallingford, Pennsylvania and Franco Galindo, 29, of New Haven, Connecticut were taken into custody. Franconia Township Police charged both men with numerous counts of Forgery and Theft by Deception. They are being held at the Montgomery County Correctional Facility in lieu of \$10,000 bail each.

Officers from Franconia, Souderton, Telford and Hatfield Township participated in a search for the other suspects and their vehicles but they were not located.

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RETAIL THEFT AT PHARMACY

The Franconia Township Police Department is investigating a retail theft that occurred at 4:40 p.m. on Sunday, December 20, 2009 at the CVS Pharmacy, 409 Harleysville Pike. One female and one male suspect were seen in surveillance video removing numerous cartons of personal shaving blades and over-the counter medications for eye and digestive conditions. All of the stolen items were tagged with security devices.

The female was in possession of a bag that was able to circumvent the security system. A third suspect, a black female with a long pony tail, wearing a long white coat with tassels at the bottom, is not shown in the pictures. The monetary amount of the theft is unknown at this point.



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