

STATE OF MARYLAND

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Information Release

The State Prosecutor announced that on December 10<sup>th</sup>, 2007, the Grand Jurors for Baltimore County charged Charmaine Bethea, 38, resident of Brooklyn, Maryland and Theresa Diann Riley, 42, resident of Joppatowne, Maryland with conspiracy to commit theft of more than **\$250,000**.

In addition, Charmaine Bethea was charged with one count of identity fraud, one count of forgery, one count of theft over \$500 and one count of possession of counterfeit documents. The indictment alleges that from 2004-2006, Ms. Bethea knowingly obtained, falsified and uttered counterfeit checks totaling **\$129,601.05** to various retail outlets under an assumed name.

Theresa Diann Riley was also charged with one count of identity fraud, one count of forgery and one count of theft over \$500. The indictment alleges that from 2003-2006, Ms. Riley knowingly falsified and uttered counterfeit checks totaling **\$144,432.58** to various retail outlets under two different assumed names.

The theft and conspiracy charges carry a maximum penalty of up to 15 years incarceration and/or up to a \$25,000 fine. Identity fraud carries a maximum penalty of up to 5 years of incarceration and/or \$5,000. The maximum penalty for possession of counterfeit documents carries a maximum penalty of up to 10 years of incarceration and/or \$1,000.

An indictment is merely an accusation. Ms. Bethea and Ms. Riley are innocent until proven guilty.