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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
July 28, 2015

CHARGES FILED IN IDENTITY THEFT CASE - PAIR CHARGED WITH USING STOLEN IDENTITIES TO OPEN CREDIT ACCOUNTS



Eric Lamont Martin



Portia Martin

Montgomery County District Attorney Risa Vetri Ferman and Upper Dublin Township Police Chief Terrence P. Thompson announce that charges have been filed against Eric Lamont Martin and Portia D. Martin for the theft of \$124,981.00. Police are searching for them at this time.

In March of 2015, Upper Dublin Police received information regarding a possible case of identity theft. Based on the investigation police concluded that Eric Martin and Portia Martin are owners of Centra-Spike, a Heating, Ventilation and Air Conditioning (HVAC) company. The defendants are believed to have obtained identifying information of at least eight people and applied for fraudulent loans in their names through Synchrony Financial in order to pay for alleged HVAC services. Synchrony Financial is a company which provides loans to individuals in order to finance home improvement projects. None of the eight individuals, mostly seniors, had utilized Centra-Spike nor had they applied for credit through Synchrony Financial. According to police, Synchrony Financial paid the loans to Cenra-Spike's business account. The funds were allegedly diverted from the defendants' business account to their personal accounts, and later depleted.

This investigation is ongoing and anyone who thinks that they may also be a victim should contact the Upper Dublin Township Police Department at (215) 646-2101.

This case will be prosecuted by Assistant District Attorney Mark Antonacio, Captain of the Economic Crimes Unit.

Approved for release:

Risa Vetri Ferman

CRIMINAL CHARGES AND ANY DISCUSSION THEREOF, ARE MERELY ALLEGATIONS AND ALL DEFENDANTS ARE PRESUMED INNOCENT UNTIL AND UNLESS PROVEN GUILTY .