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Florida Attorney General's Office News Release

Attorney General James Uthmeier Charges Additional Member of Check-Fraud Ring

TALLAHASSEE, Fla.—Attorney General James Uthmeier's Office of Statewide Prosecution charged an additional defendant in a check-fraud ring case. Juwon James Thomas is charged with an organized scheme to defraud, conspiracy to commit grand theft, and other counts for his actions in a criminal ring that stole more than \$500,000 through depositing fraudulent Florida retirement checks.

"Florida is a law-and-order state, and there are consequences for criminal deeds," said **Attorney General James Uthmeier**. "Our statewide prosecutors will seek justice in court and hold this fraudster accountable."

According to the investigation, Thomas worked with a check fraud ring that altered stolen retirement checks to deposit into conspirators' accounts. Thomas and other accomplices resided in Leon County. Meanwhile, the victims lived in Miami-Dade County.

Thomas is charged with one count of organized scheme to defraud, a first-degree felony; two counts of possession of personal identification information with intent to defraud, a third-degree felony; one count of unlawful use of a two-way communications device, a third-degree felony; one count of conspiracy to commit grand theft, a third-degree felony; and one count of conspiracy to commit money laundering, a third-degree felony.

Attorney General Uthmeier's OSP will handle the case.

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