



OFFICE OF THE SHERIFF

ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY
P.O. Box 507, 7 Church Circle, Suite 400
Annapolis, Maryland 21404

Sheriff Ronald S. Bateman
Administration 410-222-1571

Deputy Sheriff Harry L. Neisser, PIO
Telephone: 410-222-1299
Fax: 410-222-1583

AACoSO Case #

Release Date: 10/22/07

Approved by:

(Supervisor's Signature/ID#)

Approved by:

(Sheriff/Chief Deputy)

News Release

Sheriff Stings Wanted Persons

ANNAPOLIS, MD. (October 22, 2007) – When Ron Bateman was sworn in as Anne Arundel County's 119th Sheriff eleven months ago, there were over 12,000 outstanding warrants on file. Since taking office, the Sheriff has received over 10,000 new warrants. Using innovative ideas and plans, such as three major warrant sweeps throughout the county, and conducting an in-depth audit of old warrants, that number has been brought down to approximately 10,000 outstanding warrants to date.

Keeping up with his vigilant commitment to reduce the outstanding criminal warrants, Sheriff Bateman has orchestrated a sting operation to lure wanted people in, thereby further reducing the outstanding warrants.

On October 5th, letters under the guise of the Comptroller of the Treasury Office were sent to 500 of our most recent persons wanted on criminal warrants - persons wanted for everything from misdemeanors to felony charges. The letters stated a computer error was detected in the "tax bracket indicators" utilized by the State of Maryland to determine the rate of taxes by Maryland residents in certain tax brackets. The letter also said the "Comptroller's office has conducted an audit" and found that the person (person letter sent to) had overpaid on his/her taxes, and had a tax refund coming to them from the State of Maryland in the amount of \$572.26.

The letter recipient was advised to report to the Treasury Building at 80 Calvert Street in Annapolis on Saturday, October 20th between 8am and 4pm in order to receive their refund check. The letter also said they must also produce two forms of identification, one of which must be a photo ID, in order to receive their refund.

On Saturday, October 20th, plainclothes Anne Arundel County Sheriff's personnel greeted 40 wanted persons at the Treasury Building and presented them, not with a check, but with a warrant for their arrest, clearing 54 warrants. Sheriff Bateman said, "The operation was a huge success. We were able to successfully clear many warrants using a creative approach." Besides the 40 arrests made on October 20, 2007, six other previously wanted people showed up at the Treasury Building to obtain their checks. These individuals had been arrested since receiving their fictitious letter and left without a check.

“If you are out there and you have received one of our letters, it’s time to turn yourself in to the Sheriff’s Office,” Sheriff Bateman said. “This can be accomplished by calling 410-222-1490.”

As part of this special operation, Sheriff Bateman utilized members of the Anne Arundel County Police to fingerprint, photograph, and interview prisoners, the Office of the Comptroller’s Enforcement Division to escort the wanted guests, the Commissioner’s Office who provided a special commissioner to expedite the initial appearance process, and the Anne Arundel County Detention Center who provided extra staff to handle the intake of prisoners who were held awaiting bail. Sheriff Bateman stated “This operation would not have been possible without the cooperation from the State Comptroller, Mr. Franchot, and the other state and county agencies who supported this unique operation. I want to give a special thanks to every member of the Sheriff’s Office staff who made this the smoothest operation I have been a part of in 27 years.”

(See additional document for arrest statistics/details)