

MEDIA RELEASE
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Contact:
Debbie George
757-514-4106
757-374-1770

SUBJECT CHARGED WITH PASSING COUNTERFEIT BILLS

SUFFOLK, VA (October 14, 2009) A Franklin man was arrested yesterday and charged with passing counterfeit money at a local business last month. Suffolk Police advise that Joseph Ashburn Jr., age 30, of the 500 blk of Ashton St., was identified by a tip to police after surveillance video captured him purchasing shoes at the Athlete's Foot located in the 900 blk. of N. Main St. on September 4th. Ashburn is seen in the video, passing six counterfeit fifties and three counterfeit twenties as well as stealing a cap before exiting the store.

Tips detectives received after the surveillance video was shown by local news media provided the investigative lead needed to identify and charge Ashburn. He was arrested in Smithfield yesterday and a search warrant was executed at his Franklin residence. Items recovered at his residence included a cap matching the one the suspect was observed stealing. Detective John Jones was the investigating detective.

Ashburn was charged with two counts of forgery of bank notes, two counts of uttering forged bank notes, two counts of obtaining property by false pretense, one count of petit larceny and one count of possession of counterfeit bank notes. He was taken to Western Tidewater Regional Jail yesterday but is currently out on bond.

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