



# EFFINGHAM POLICE DEPARTMENT

**JEFFREY FUESTING, CHIEF OF POLICE**

201 EAST JEFFERSON AVENUE, EFFINGHAM, ILLINOIS 62401

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## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

### **SPECIAL NEWS RELEASE**

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### **LOCAL COUNTERFEITING OPERATION UNCOVERED; INDICTMENTS ANTICIPATED**

In late December 2017 through early January 2018, Effingham Police Department Bureau of Patrol responded to almost a dozen reports from local businesses and banks of counterfeit twenty dollar bills being passed. Initial investigation by Officers determined that the bills were likely from the same source.

Further investigation by Effingham Police Bureau of Criminal Investigations led to the discovery of a local counterfeiting ring. In cooperation with the United States Secret Service, Effingham Police Detectives have identified numerous persons of interest in this case, and anticipate indictments in either State or Federal Court to be handed down in the near future.

“Criminal Investigations Detectives wasted no time pursuing every lead in this case, canvassing each affected business as well as neighboring businesses for additional information. A local business employee who had attended our counterfeiting training was essential in alerting our Department during one incident. Following up on every piece of new information led to identifying multiple persons of interest in this case. Our Detectives built a solid case based on evidence gathered from their complex investigation,” detailed Chief Fuesting. He further stated, “We believe there are more individuals in our community passing counterfeit currency and we will continue to seek out those individuals. This type of work ethic and partnerships with federal agencies are essential to the Police Department’s commitment to protect our citizens and make Effingham a great place to live, work and raise our families.”

Indictments are anticipated on multiple felony counts. Any individual with additional information about these or any other crime is encouraged to call CRIMESTOPPERS at 217-347-6583 for cash rewards up to \$1,000. Individuals calling CRIMESTOPPERS may choose to remain anonymous.