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CHICAGO MAN ARRESTED ON FEDERAL CHARGES OF SELLING COUNTERFEIT \$100 BILLS MATCHING MORE THAN \$100,000 IN BOGUS CASH

CHICAGO — A Chicago man is facing federal charges for allegedly selling counterfeit \$100 bills containing serial numbers matching approximately \$112,900 in counterfeit currency that has been circulated nationwide, federal law enforcement officials announced today. The defendant, **Arthur J. Williams, III**, allegedly sold a total of 64 counterfeit \$100 bills for a total of \$1,280 in genuine currency on three separate occasions this month, announced Patrick J. Fitzgerald, United States Attorney for the Northern District of Illinois, and Thomas A. Kelly, Special Agent-in-Charge of the U.S. Secret Service in Chicago.

Williams, 18, of Chicago, was arrested Monday by Secret Service agents and was charged in a criminal complaint filed in U.S. District Court in Chicago. Following court appearances Monday and yesterday, Williams was released on a \$10,000 unsecured bond and placed in the custody of his mother. He waived a preliminary hearing and no future court date is scheduled at this time pending further proceedings.

According to the complaint, an individual told Secret Service agents in May that he/she had been purchasing counterfeit \$100 bills, at \$20 each, from Williams weekly for approximately two

months. The individual agreed to cooperate and proceeded to purchase counterfeit money from Williams on three separate occasions. On June 16, Williams allegedly sold the cooperating individual 24 counterfeit \$100 bills for \$480. He sold the same individual 30 additional counterfeit \$100 bills for \$600 on June 17, and another 10 counterfeit \$100 bills for \$200 on June 23, the complaint alleges.

After each transaction, agents matched the serial numbers of the bogus bills and discovered that counterfeit bills with the same serial numbers, totaling approximately \$112,900, had been passed in at least a dozen different states nationwide in recent months.

If convicted, Williams faces a maximum penalty of 20 years in prison and a \$250,000 fine. The Court, however, would determine the appropriate sentence to be imposed under the advisory United States Sentencing Guidelines.

The government is being represented by Assistant United States Attorneys Margaret Schneider and Marc Krickbaum.

The public is reminded that a complaint contains only charges and is not evidence of guilt. The defendant is presumed innocent and is entitled to a fair trial at which the government has the burden of proving guilt beyond a reasonable doubt.

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