

Town of Madison Police Department

2120 Fish Hatchery Road • Madison, Wisconsin 53713
608-210-7262 • FAX: 608-210-7237

Scott T. Gregory, Chief of Police

MEDIA RELEASE

Date of Release: January 31, 2008

Released By: Chief Scott Gregory

Incident: Identity Theft

Date: 01/28/08

Case Number: 07-91126

Address: 2120 Fish Hatchery Road

Arrested Person(s)/Suspect Description:

Bradley D. Zweifel
33 years of age
Belleville, WI 53508

Details of Incident:

Zweifel received a parking citation from the Town of Madison Police Department. Zweifel wrote a check to pay for the parking citation and the check was returned for non-sufficient funds. The police department conducted an investigation and Zweifel was issued a citation for Issuing a Worthless Check.

Prior to a court appearance for the Worthless Check charge, Zweifel requested Amcore bank issue a letter indicating the NSF check was due to a bank error. The bank refused to issue the letter due to the fact Zweifel could not prove a bank error caused the NSF check.

Zweifel created a letter stating the NSF check was due to an Amcore Bank error. Zweifel advised the Town of Madison Municipal Court this letter was provide by Amcore Bank.

Zweifel was arrested at a pre-trial conference and booked into the Dane County Jail for a violation of 943.203(2)(a), Identify Theft – Financial Gain. A copy of the Criminal Complaint is attached.

An archived copy of this and other Town of Madison Police Department News Releases is available on the department's website at www.town.madison.wi.us/police/index.html



STATE OF WISCONSIN

Plaintiff,

-vs-

BRADLEY D ZWEIFEL
N7976 County Rd CC
Belleville, WI 53508
DOB: 06/18/1974
Sex/Race: M/W
Eye Color: Blue
Hair Color: Brown
Height: 6 ft 2 in
Weight: 230 lbs
Alias:

DA Case No.: 2008DA001280
Agency Case No.: TWMP 07-91126
Court Case No.: **2008CF** _____
ATN: 13100801280531

Defendant,

COMPLAINING WITNESS

Garton/Robert Anderson/Parks/Witheg

The above-named complaining witness being first duly sworn states the following:

Count 1: IDENTITY THEFT - FINANCIAL GAIN

The above-named defendant on or about Monday, September 24, 2007, in the Town of Madison, Dane County, Wisconsin, did intentionally attempt to use identifying information of an entity; to wit; the name of Amcore Bank, to obtain something of benefit, without the entity's authorization or consent by representing that he was acting with the authorization or consent of the entity, contrary to sec. 943.203(2)(a), Wis. Stats., a Class H Felony, and upon conviction may be fined not more than Ten Thousand Dollars (\$10,000), or imprisoned not more than six (6) years, or both.

FACTS:

Your complainant is employed by the Town of Madison Police Department and bases this complaint upon your complainant's personal knowledge, information, and belief.

Town of Madison Police Department Officer Jessica Fischer reports that records kept and maintained in the usual course of business by the Town of Madison reveal that a person, identified by said records as Bradley D. Zweifel, and checks, which were returned unpaid because of insufficient funds in his account, in payment of citations issued by the Town of Madison Police Department. When said checks were returned unpaid and were not subsequently paid, the defendant was, according to said records, issued a citation for issuing of worthless checks, and given a return date of September 24, 2007, at Town of Madison Municipal Court. Said records reveal that, when the defendant appeared at

Municipal Court, he presented a letter, a copy of which is attached hereto and incorporated herein by reference as if set forth in full herein.

Officer Fischer reports that she spoke with people, who identified themselves as Eric Muggenburg and Abigail Eichelkraut, employees of Amcore Bank, at its New Glarus, Wisconsin, location. Eichelkraut and Muggenburg each stated that Amcore customer, Brad Zweifel, had come into the bank about half an hour before his scheduled court appearance at the Town of Madison Police Department and had requested a letter saying that the dishonoring of the checks was the Bank error. Eichelkraut stated that she asked Zweifel if he had proof that it was actually an error made by Amcore Bank, to which Zweifel responded, "No." Eichelkraut stated that she told Zweifel that there is nothing she could do for him because he did not have any proof the bank had made an error on his account, and that she, therefore, could not provide a letter to him. Muggenburg confirmed Zweifel's account and indicated that Zweifel showed the citation to himself and to Eichelkraut. Muggenburg and Eichelkraut stated that each had seen a copy of the above-described letter. Each states the letter is not authentic. Your complainant infers that Amcore Bank did not give anyone permission to create or use such a letter. Officer Fischer reports that, on January 28, 2008, she spoke with a person, whom she identified as Bradley Zweifel, DOB: 06/18/1974, the defendant herein. The defendant acknowledged that he had presented the above-described letter to the Town of Madison's attorney, John Gerlach. The defendant stated that the check he had issued to pay his parking citation had not cleared and had been returned by his bank. The defendant stated that he had then made contact with Amcore Bank at an 800 number and told the person he had gotten a ticket and the check had never cleared. The defendant stated that he told the person he believes he has a business reserve on credit and did not know why the check had not cleared. The defendant stated that the person he spoke to then sent him the letter after checking into it. The defendant denied having ever made contact in person with anyone at Amcore Bank regarding the bad check and denied having gone into the New Glarus branch of the Amcore Bank to make contact with anyone requesting a letter stating that the check did not clear as a result of a bank error. Officer Fischer reports that she then explained to the defendant the result of her investigations. Officer Fischer reports that, after the Town of Madison Police Department Chief Gregory entered the room where she was speaking with the defendant and explained to the defendant that he had been watching the interview as it occurred, Chief Gregory left after speaking briefly with the defendant, and the interview continued. The defendant then stated that 2007 had been a bad, bad year for him, and that his property had been vandalized extensively. The defendant stated that he had, in fact, gone to the New Glarus Bank and spoken with "Abby." The defendant stated that Abby told him that if he could bring in the check number and date, she would investigate the matter. The defendant stated that Abby told him that she would need to look into the check further before she could give him a letter. The defendant stated that he knew he was going to get a letter from the bank, because he knew it was a bank error. He wrote the letter and brought it to court. The defendant stated that he created the letter at home on his computer changing the font on the letter to create what looked like the Amcore logo.

Attached hereto and incorporated herein by reference as if set forth in full herein is a true and accurate copy of the above-described letter.

Your complainant knows that the Town of Madison Municipal Court is located in the Town of Madison, Dane County, Wisconsin.

**THIS COMPLAINT IS BASED ON the information and belief of your complainant, who is a court officer for the Town of Madison Police Department, and who learned of the above offense from the reports of Town of Madison Police Officer(s) Jessica Fischer, which report(s) your complainant believes to be truthful and reliable inasmuch as they were prepared during the course of the officer(s) official duties.

Further, your complainant believes the information furnished by Eric Muggenburg and Abigail Eichelkraut to be truthful and reliable inasmuch as they are citizen informant(s) and witnessed the events described.

Your complainant believes the statements of the Defendant to be truthful and reliable insofar as they are admissions against penal interest.

Subscribed and sworn to before me,
and approved for filing on:

This _____ day of January, 2008.

ASSISTANT/DEP DISTRICT ATTORNEY
DANE COUNTY, WISCONSIN

COMPLAINANT

AMCORE Bank

Date 9-20-07

Bradley D Zweifel
W 3832 Exeter Crossing Rd
Belleville WI 53508-9606

To whom this may concern, There was a bank error in Bradley D. Zweifel's checking account. What happened was the Amcore Bank did not correctly deposit a check into his account so his checking account went negative when the check wrote out to the Town of Madison went through. It was then sent back as NSF. We at the Amcore Bank are sorry for the confusion that this may have caused. If you have any questions regarding this please contact us at the customer service at 1-888-4-AMCORE. Thank you.