

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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Glendale Police Arrest Identity Thief

Glendale, Ariz. – On Wednesday, June 12th, 2013, A Glendale Police Officer with our Neighborhood Response Unit made a traffic stop on a vehicle in the 5800 block of W. Peoria Avenue. The driver, 43 year old Michael Ross, and the passenger, 47 year old Shawna Ross, were found to be in possession of dangerous drugs. Officers also located multiple forged checks, stolen driver's licenses, stolen social security cards, copies of several individual tax returns, and multiple pages of blank checks. Inside the vehicle, officers located the personal identifying information of 388 different individuals.

Michael and Shawna Ross were both booked into the Maricopa County Jail on felony charges. Michael was charged with Possession of Dangerous Drugs. Shawna was charged Aggravated Identity Theft, Trafficking in the Identity of Another, and Forgery. Booking photos can be obtained through MCSO.

Since the arrest, working in coordination with Phoenix Police Detectives, Glendale Police has also found Shawna is possibly connected to a series of burglaries from vehicles in Phoenix. The burglaries occurred at hiking trails in the city of Phoenix. Some of the stolen personal identifying information found in the vehicle from the traffic stop matched the victims in the Phoenix cases. As a result, Shawna Ross could face several more charges related to cases in Phoenix.

Identity theft is one of the fastest growing crimes in America and millions are victimized each year throughout the country. Through the diligent work of our Neighborhood Response Unit and the excellent coordination of our law enforcement partners, a suspect has been apprehended and will face multiple charges of Identity Theft.

This also serves as a reminder to our community to take precautions to protect your identity. There are several good resources available online. Citizens can also visit our Glendale Police website for identity theft information at www.glendaleaz.com/police/identitytheftinformation.cfm. In addition, we want to remind our citizens to not leave valuables or personal identifying information in their vehicles while at parks. Thieves tend to target vehicles in parking lots while hikers and runners are utilizing the trails. Never provide an opportunity for thieves by leaving your valuables in your vehicle!



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**Spanish translation available if needed*

*“The Glendale Police Department’s mission
is to protect the lives and property of the people we serve.”*

*Glendale Police Department
a proud recipient of CALEA National Accreditation since 2000*