



## OFFICIAL MEDIA RELEASE

### KENT COUNTY SHERIFF DEPARTMENT



Date: 7/13/15

Complaint Number: Community Alert

Type of Incident: County Wide Mail Theft/Fraud

Reporting Officer: Det. John Degroot—Metro Fraud Team

Supervisor Approval: Lt. Al Roetman

#### BUSINESS COMMUNITY ALERT:

Recently there has been a number of Kent County businesses which have had their outgoing mail stolen from their mailboxes. These thefts are occurring overnight and/or over the weekends. Some of the mail contains checks. Several of these businesses have had their checks counterfeited and cashed or attempted to be cashed at banks and stores, both locally and out of state.

Kent County Sheriff Fraud Investigators have at least eight reports of this type of activity involving local businesses.

Recommendation is to not leave outgoing mail containing checks or items with personal/sensitive information in the business mailbox. Instead, post office receptacles or the post office should be used to drop off this type of mail.

Victim businesses are located in Byron Township, Algoma Township, Cascade Township, and the City of Kentwood.

These cases are currently being investigated by the Metro Fraud and Identity Theft Team which is comprised of detectives from Kent County Sheriff's Office, Kentwood Police Department, Grand Rapids Police Department and Wyoming Department of Public Safety.

If you have any information about these cases, please contact your local police agency or Silent Observer at 616-774-2345.