



OFFICE OF THE MERCER COUNTY PROSECUTOR

ANGELO J. ONOFRI

Acting Prosecutor

VELDON HARRIS

Chief of County Detectives

240 West State Street, 8th Floor

P.O. Box 8068

Trenton, New Jersey 08650-0068

Phone: (609) 989-6350

Fax: (609) 989-0161

mercercountyprosecutor.com

DORIS M. GALUCHIE

First Assistant Prosecutor

ROBERT DISPOTO

Deputy Chief of County Detectives

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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CONTACT: Casey A. DeBlasio
(609) 989-6379

Lawrence Business Owner Charged with Theft

The owner of Patio World Home and Hearth on Brunswick Pike in Lawrenceville has been charged with one count of theft by deception, Acting Mercer County Prosecutor Angelo J. Onofri reported.

The complaint alleges that Perry K. Arons, age 56, of Naples, Fla., accepted payment totaling approximately \$38,000 from a couple in Skillman, NJ, in March and July 2015 for patio furniture. The homeowners never received their order and the money was not returned.

Arons turned himself into authorities on June 9 and was released pending future court proceedings. Third-degree offenses carry a penalty of three to five years in prison and a fine of up to \$15,000.

The investigation is a result of a referral to the prosecutor's office by the Mercer County Division of Consumer Affairs. The investigation is ongoing and being conducted by Sergeant Natischa K. Clark of the prosecutor's Economic Crime Unit (ECU) and Lawrence Police Detective Todd Caruso. Anyone with relevant information should contact the ECU at (609) 989-6365.

Despite having been charged, all persons are presumed innocent until found guilty beyond a reasonable doubt in a court of law.

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