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ARC Mercer Employee Charged with Stealing \$100,000

Mercer County Prosecutor Joseph L. Bocchini Jr. announced today that a joint investigation conducted by his Economic Crime Unit (ECU) and the Ewing Police Department has resulted in the arrest of Christopher C. English (DOB 1/17/81) of Dickens Drive, Delran, NJ.

ARC Mercer referred the matter to law enforcement authorities about a week ago after its payroll company identified some discrepancies. ARC Mercer began an internal investigation and discovered the embezzlement scheme of its human resources director.

The investigation revealed that, while employed as ARC Mercer's human resources director, English noted employees that were terminated or resigned, and continued to generate payroll checks in their names. He then deposited the checks into a bank account and proceeded to purchase a number of large ticket items, including a \$30,000 travel trailer, a golf cart and a 2013 Ford F-150. Over the course of three months, English is alleged to have stolen more than \$100,000 of ARC Mercer funds.

English was taken into custody at his Delran residence at approximately 11 a.m. on May 9 by members of the Mercer County Prosecutor's Office and the Ewing Police Department. Search warrants were executed and officers seized the Ford F-150 pickup truck and a 2012 Chevrolet Sonic that English used as part of his illegal activities. Detectives also seized the \$30,000 Jayco Jay Flight trailer and the golf cart from a trailer park in Salem County. In addition, a bank account of English's containing \$30,000 has been frozen.

English is charged with one count of second-degree theft by deception. Second-degree crimes carry a maximum penalty of 10 years in state prison and a \$150,000 fine. Bail was set at \$60,000, which English posted on Thursday.

Bocchini credited Lieutenant Rich Frascella of his ECU, and Detectives Pat Holt and Bill Wolverton of the Ewing Police Department with the investigation leading to the arrest. The case is being prosecuted by Assistant Prosecutor James Scott, chief of the ECU.

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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