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# Rocky Hill Police Department

"A Police-Community Partnership Since 1938"

## Press Release

Rocky Hill Police arrest five suspects in counterfeit check cashing scheme.

**Rocky Hill, January 9, 2007**

- On Monday January 8, 2007 at 2:08 pm, the Rocky Hill Police Department received a report that a suspect was attempting to cash a counterfeit check at the Webster Bank branch, located at 377 Cromwell Avenue. Bank management had been aware that a fraudulent check ring had been working throughout the Greater Hartford and Middlesex County areas.
- Working with Rocky Hill Police, representatives of the bank provided officers with a description of both a suspect and a vehicle seen leaving the Rocky Hill branch after the unsuccessful attempt of cashing a fraudulent check drawn from a business account. A short time later, Rocky Hill Police stopped the suspect vehicle and its five occupants on New Britain Avenue by the Berlin town line. After investigative detention and through the thorough search of the suspects and their vehicle, five arrests have been made in what appears to be a major counterfeiting ring.
- Charged with Counterfeiting 1<sup>st</sup> Degree, Forgery 1<sup>st</sup> Degree, Conspiracy to Commit Counterfeiting and Larceny in the 3<sup>rd</sup> Degree are Stefan Harris, 35 years old of Hartford, Martin Cotto, 22 years old of Hartford, William Plaza, 27 years old of Hartford, Julio Mena, 28 years old of Hartford and Igmarie Castro, 25 years old also of Hartford Connecticut. Additionally, Harris was charged with possession of less than 4 ounces of a controlled substance and Plaza was charged with possession of less than 4 ounces of a controlled substance with intent to sell.
- A quantity of cash and fraudulent identifications were also seized during this arrest.
- All suspects were held on a \$150,000.00 surety bond and appeared today at Superior Court 15 in New Britain. Stefan Harris was released after posting his bond and will appear in court on January 22, 2007.
- The investigation into this matter will continue. The Rocky Hill Police Department will be working with police agencies throughout Hartford County and around the state who have had similar crimes occur within their jurisdictions.

***Lieutenant Robert Catania***

***Public Information Officer***

*For Immediate Release at 17:00 p.m. on Tuesday January 9, 2007*

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