



**FORT PIERCE POLICE DEPARTMENT**  
**NEWS RELEASE**  
**11/13/2008**



**R. Sean Baldwin**  
*Chief of Police*

920 S. U.S. #1  
Ft. Pierce, FL 34950

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**Suspect arrested for bilking elderly woman out of life savings**

**FORT PIERCE** – A six-month joint investigation culminated today with the arrest of a Vero Beach man for duping an elderly woman out of \$333,000 and a 1993 Mercedes-Benz.



Warren Avis Poole, 51(9/30/4957), of Vero Beach was arrested and transported to the St. Lucie County Jail. He faces 7 charges, including contracting without a license during a state of emergency, organized scheme to defraud and uttering a forged instrument.

Detective Sally Hurley assisted by Special Agent Kevin Kulp of the Florida Department of Law Enforcement began investigating the incident in May after victim Juanita Gunther, 68, of 2005 Mimosa Avenue in Fort Pierce, reported that Poole used money she gave him for personal gain and not for its intended purpose.

“Special Agent Kulp really stepped up to the plate during the investigation of the case,” said Detective Hurley.

Gunther gave Poole \$90,000 to pay for the costs associated with constructing a new building for her beauty salon, Dynasty. She also invested \$75,000 as a business loan to purchase six dump trucks to be used in recovery efforts after Hurricane Katrina in Louisiana. There was an additional 124,000 Gunther paid to Poole associated with the purchase of the trucks. Gunther also paid Poole \$48,475 for various work and services not completed.

Gunther first came in contact with Poole after the 2004 hurricanes. Poole, an unlicensed contractor agreed to repair the roof on Gunther’s home and complete other repairs.

“There is a possibility that there may be more victims,” said Special Agent Kulp. “We advise those individuals to contact your local law enforcement agency.”

Victims in Fort Pierce can contact, Detective Sally Hurley, at 772-461-3820.

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Audria V. Moore  
Public Information Officer  
Cell: 772-370-1848  
Office: 772-461-3820 ext. 5203

# Fort Pierce Police Department

920 South US 1 Fort Pierce, Florida 34950

## INCIDENT / OFFENSE REPORT

NON-CRIMINAL REPORT

CASE NUMBER 2008-4-06168	RELATED CASE NUMBERS	INCIDENT TYPE Fraud	DATE REPORTED 05/18/2008	TIME REPORTED 1514
DATE OCCURRED FROM	MONTH DAY YEAR TO MONTH DAY	TIME OCCURRED FROM	HOUR MIN TO HOUR MIN	
	01 27 2005 04 02		08 00 16 00	
<input type="checkbox"/> JUVENILE INVOLVED <input type="checkbox"/> DOMESTIC <input type="checkbox"/> HATE/BIAS <input type="checkbox"/> POSSIBLE GANG INVOLVEMENT		ORI NUMBER	FL0560100	
GANG INVOLVEMENT/DESCRIPTION		CLEARANCE CODE	EXCEPTION CODE	
		Not Cleared (Open / Active)		

EVENT DATA	LOCATION OF THE OFFENSE 2005 Mimosa Avenue, Fort Pierce, FL 34945	LONGITUDE -80.22000	LATITUDE 27.22000
DISTRICT	ZONE	FORCED ENTRY	LOCATION TYPE
1	140	N/A	Apartment / Condo
CALIBER / GAUGE		COLOR	TYPE OF WEAPON
		0	N/A
		# OF PREMISES ENTERED	# OF OFFENDERS
		1	0
		# OF OFFENSES	# ARRESTED
		1	0

OFFENSE 1	DESCRIPTION FRAUD-SWINDLE OBTAIN PROPERTY 50K DOLS OR MORE	STATUTE 817.034 4a1	LEVEL F
STATUS Committed		DRUG TYPE N/A	DRUG ACTIVITY N/A

PERSON 1	TYPE Victim	DESCRIPTION Adult	ADULT/JUV Adult	NAME (LAST / MONIKER, FIRST, MID. / FIRM) Gunther, Juanita T				RACE White
SEX Female	D.O.B. 06/25/1940	PLACE OF BIRTH		<input type="checkbox"/> ESTIMATED AGE 64	HAIR Brown	HAIR STYLE Wavy/Curly	HEIGHT 5'4"	WEIGHT 120
EYES Brown	ETHNICITY Unknown	SSN 000-00-0000	INJURY EXTENT		INJURY TYPE 1		INJURY TYPE 2	
HOME PHONE (772) 460-9370		CELL PHONE		ALTERNATIVE CONTACT		RES TYPE City	RES STATUS Full Yr	
HOME ADDRESS 2005 Mimosa Avenue, Fort Pierce, FL 34945								
EMPLOYER / SCHOOL				OCCUPATION				WORK PHONE
BUSINESS ADDRESS / SCHOOL					<input type="checkbox"/> FOUL PLAY SUSPECTED	MISSING PREVIOUSLY	RECOVERY INFORMATION	
DRIVERS LICENSE #		LIC. STATE	CLOTHING					
RELATIONS	<b>Relationships for Person 1</b>							
	Person 1 is Acquaintance of person 2							
	Person 1 is Owner Of Property 1							

REPORTED BY: Sandra Larkins	EMPLOYEE NO 4804	DIVISION NPB	UNIT All Rotations
SUPERVISOR: Alicia Rock	EMPLOYEE NO 4812	DIVISION	UNIT 140

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GANG INVOLVEMENT/DESCRIPTION		CLEARANCE CODE	EXCEPTION CODE	
		Not Cleared (Open / Active)		

PERSON 2	TYPE Suspect	DESCRIPTION Adult	ADULT/JUV N/A	NAME (LAST / MONIKER, FIRST, MID. / FIRM) Poole, Warren			RACE White	
SEX Male	D.O.B.	PLACE OF BIRTH		<input type="checkbox"/> ESTIMATED AGE	HAIR Unknown	HAIR STYLE Unknown	HEIGHT	WEIGHT
EYES Unknown	ETHNICITY Unknown	SSN 000-00-0000	INJURY EXTENT		INJURY TYPE 1		INJURY TYPE 2	
HOME PHONE (772) 492-0166		CELL PHONE (919) 697-0750		ALTERNATIVE CONTACT		RES TYPE City	RES STATUS Full Yr	
HOME ADDRESS 1727 A1A Drive, Vero Beach, FL 32963								
EMPLOYER / SCHOOL				OCCUPATION			WORK PHONE	
BUSINESS ADDRESS / SCHOOL					<input type="checkbox"/> FOUL PLAY SUSPECTED	MISSING PREVIOUSLY	RECOVERY INFORMATION	
DRIVERS LICENSE #		LIC. STATE	CLOTHING					
<b>Relationships for Person 2</b>								
Person 2 is Charged With Violation 1								

PROPERTY 1	STATUS Stolen	DAMAGE Other	PROPERTY TYPE OTHER	BRAND US	MODEL Currency	
COLOR Green	SERIAL NUMBER unknown	<input type="checkbox"/> IS ESTIMATED VALUE 241500	PROPERTY DESCRIPTION \$241,500 stolen		QUANTITY	UNIT OF MEASURE Not Reported
OAN N/A	RECOVERY VALUE	RECOVERY DATE	RECOVERY LOCATION			

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## INVESTIGATIVE / CRIME SCENE SUMMARY REPORT

NON-CRIMINAL REPORT

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INCIDENT LOCATION 2005 Mimosa Avenue, Fort Pierce, FL 34945			LATITUDE 27.22000	LONGITUDE -80.22000
MO / SOLVABILITY	INVESTIGATOR	INVESTIGATION RESULTS		
		<input type="checkbox"/> REFER TO PROPERTY REPORT		
MODUS OPERANDI	POINT OF ENTRY	LATENT FINGER PRINT	LATENT PALM PRINT	CRIME AGAINST
SOLVABILITY(1)		SOLVABILITY(2)		
SOLVABILITY(3)		SOLVABILITY(4)		
SOLVABILITY(5)		SOLVABILITY(6)		
SOLVABILITY(7)		SOLVABILITY(8)		
CRIME SCENE	CATEGORY	DESCRIPTION		

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### Summary

Victim called in regards to fraud after hiring the suspect to start up two businesses. The victim stated that the suspect used her money for his personal gain. Case forwarded to the Detective Bureau.

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**Narrative**

On 05/18/08, I met with the victim Juanita Gunther who stated that she paid Warren Poole approximately \$151,500 in wire transfers and checks starting in January 2005 to purchase several trucks for the sole purpose of working in New Orleans after Hurricane Katrina. Juanita stated that Warren gave her three titles to trucks that were not signed over her.

Check #	Dated	Amount
5680	01/27/05	\$4500
5691	02/04/05	\$12900
5733	05/13/05	\$7000
5737	05/16/05	\$5000
5742	06/01/05	\$8600
5804	11/04/05	\$3500
5813	10/13/05	\$75000*
5820	11/07/05	\$35000
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		\$151,500

Denote\* Check date is out of order.

04/02/07, Juanita Gunther wired \$50,000 into an escrow account that Warren Poole should have started for her beauty salon (Dynasty). Juanita stated that she began to receive several calls from the architect and other workers stating that they had not gotten paid. Juanita stated that she then asked Poole for copies of all checks written from the escrow account. Juanita stated that she received checks from Poole with PAID stamped across them. Juanita stated that she checked with Poole's bank and was told that the checks were not good. Juanita stated that she had given Poole a total of \$90,000 to start her business.

Juanita stated that she has the original checks and bank statements. She stated that she would like to make copies of all prior to giving to this officer.

Juanita stated that she did make contact with Warren Poole who stated that he needed 30- 45 days to obtain a lawyer.

Juanita stated that she will press charges. This case has been forwarded to the Detective Bureau for further investigation.

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