

# Hotel manager charged in counterfeiting scheme

Two Costa Mesa residents arrested after monthlong investigation.

By **JON CASSIDY**

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COSTA MESA – Two Costa Mesa residents were charged Tuesday with a series of felonies after police reported finding 19 counterfeit \$50 and \$100 bills, bill-printing hardware and chemicals, guns, drugs and other contraband when they served a search warrant Friday.

Jacques Delia, 43, was arrested after a short chase, and Sheila McCarthy, 41, was arrested at the Hotel Huntington Beach, where she worked as a manager. Both are in jail, with bail set at \$500,000.

There's no indication that McCarthy passed bad bills at the hotel, said Investigator Lily Martinez of the Costa Mesa police, who worked the case with Detective Eugene Kim.

Before Friday, Delia was out on bail on another counterfeiting, drugs and weapons case.

Both had counterfeit bills on them when they were arrested, police said.

When police served the warrants at two locations in Costa Mesa - in the 3000 block of Java Road and the 1600 block of Coriander Street - they saw Delia leaving in a white cargo van.

They tried to get him to stop but he drove off, and then drove back to the house, with police in pursuit, and ran to the door, police said. He was arrested before he got inside, police said.

Police also reported finding a semiautomatic rifle and ammunition, a semiautomatic shotgun and ammunition, false California driver's licenses, driver's license counterfeiting, false Social Security cards, credit card re-encoders, blank credit cards, martial arts weapons and methamphetamine.

It doesn't appear that the two had mounted any large-scale credit-card fraud operation, Martinez said.

"He was just beginning to dabble," Martinez said.

Delia's drugs were for personal use, Martinez said. McCarthy has been convicted for dealing.

Police began the investigation after noticing an increase in counterfeit bill-passing incidents in Costa Mesa and Huntington Beach. With help from the U.S. Secret Service, they were able to connect the incidents to the suspects during a monthlong investigation, police said.

Jacques and McCarthy were arraigned Tuesday at Harbor Justice Center.

Local retailers are urged to check the watermark on bills by holding them up to the light

Anyone with information about counterfeiting activity may contact Martinez at [lilym@ci.costa-mesa.ca.us](mailto:lilym@ci.costa-mesa.ca.us) or Kim at [ekim@ci.costa-mesa.ca.us](mailto:ekim@ci.costa-mesa.ca.us).

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