

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:** May 3, 2012

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**Myers, Manuel Ray**

#### **Retail Fraud Suspect Arrested (update)**

**Cottonwood, Ariz**, May 3, 2012—47 year-old Manuel Ray Myers of Phoenix was re-arrested on Tuesday, May 1, 2012 on original charges of Fraudulent schemes, Forgery, Possession of Forgery Equipment, Possession of Narcotics Drugs, Possession of Drug Paraphernalia and Taking the Identity of Another, all felony offenses.

On April 26, 2012 Manuel Ray Myers went to the Cottonwood Walmart store and returned sporting equipment valued at over \$200 dollars using what were later determined to be fraudulent Walmart receipts and received a cash refund for this transaction. Less than a day later, he propositioned a citizen to make a similar return at this Walmart in exchange for \$20 dollars. Cottonwood Police responded to the scene and subsequently detained Myers and the citizen for further questioning. It was determined that the receipts presented were forged and the sporting equipment was most likely stolen and had never been purchased. During the investigation, Myers identified himself using what was later determined to be a family member's identification when he was arrested and booked into jail.

Officers located Myers' vehicle nearby and a search warrant was obtained to seek further evidence. Upon search, they discovered what was believed to be further evidence of these crimes including other suspected forged receipts, a computer, rolls of receipt paper, a printer, other electronic devices along with drugs and drug paraphernalia.

Upon discovery of Myers' true identity charges against him were dismissed and re-filed using his true identity along with an additional charge of Taking the Identity of Another.

It is believed Myers was involved in similar frauds at other Walmart stores throughout the state.

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