

Forest Grove Police Department

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Elder Abuse Investigation

Forest Grove, Oregon—

The Forest Grove Police Department is currently investigating an elder exploitation case that occurred in October of 2009. An elderly male, living in the 1800 block of Elm Street in Forest Grove when a male, who identified himself as, “Mike,” came to his residence offering to clean the moss off of his roof.

The victim agreed, and the suspect then began to tear down all of the gutters on the residence. The suspect then demanded in excess of \$5,000 to complete the work on the residence. The suspect drove the victim to a local bank, the victim withdrew \$5,000 from his account, and the suspect took the money and did not complete the work.

This incident was not initially reported to the Forest Grove Police Department until May of 2010. The Forest Grove Police Department began investigating the incident, and discovered during the course of the investigation that the same suspect had been arrested on June 12, 2009 by the Tigard Police Department for the same type of offense involving another elderly victim. In that case, the suspect was using the name of Michael Chermack. Chermack was subsequently lodged at the Washington County Jail for an offense related to that investigation.

Further investigative leads were developed, and it was discovered that Chermack had been arrested by the Kennewick Police Department in Kennewick, Washington for performing the same type of roof scam in November of 2007, with a total of four other elderly victims being charged between \$1,600-\$7,000 each. In one case a victim was wheelchair dependent, while another victim was ninety-one years old.

During the course of the investigation, it was discovered that Chermack may be utilizing multiple alias', and might have been doing so for over twenty years in Oregon.

Those alias' may be any of the following: Marco Mitchell, Dino Chermack, Michael Mitchell, Marc Martinelli, Mike Reed, Dino Ristick.

Michael Chermack was stopped by the Forest Grove Police Department for a traffic violation in July of 2009, and during that time was driving a white colored Cadillac passenger car displaying Oregon license plate 383DQH. This vehicle may currently be associated with Chermack.

The Forest Grove Police Department has been aggressively trying to locate Michael Chermack but has so far not been successful. Investigators also feel that there is a strong likelihood there are other elderly victims in the Portland area, who may have not reported what occurred. In the Kennewick Washington investigation, a press release caused other victims to come forward.

The Forest Grove Police Department is seeking any information regarding the identity and whereabouts of Michael Chermack, and also encouraging any elderly victims in the area to contact the Forest Grove Police Department, (503 992-3260), if they have been victimized in the same fashion.

