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Attorney General Griffin Announces Two Arrests Stemming from Organized Retail Crime Investigation

Griffin: 'Criminals should be on notice that they can no longer so easily target Arkansas businesses'

LITTLE ROCK – Attorney General Tim Griffin issued the following statement announcing the arrest of two individuals in Little Rock:

“Last week, investigators in my office arrested Gary Hunt, 71, of Little Rock, and Latrina Banks, 54, of Little Rock on charges of Felony Theft of Property. These arrests followed an investigation into organized retail crime, which showed that these individuals were repeatedly and systematically targeting retail stores, leading to losses of nearly \$1,000 just in the crimes we investigated. The charges against Hunt and Banks were enhanced from misdemeanors to felonies because of their prior convictions.

“I am grateful to the investigators in my Special Investigations Division for their excellent work, and I appreciate Sixth Judicial District Prosecuting Attorney Will Jones for his support in this case. Criminals should be on notice that they can no longer so easily target Arkansas businesses.”

Hunt was charged with these new crimes after he was arrested on unrelated charges. He remains incarcerated in the Pulaski County Jail. Banks was arrested Tuesday and was transported to the Pulaski County Jail.

About Attorney General Tim Griffin

Tim Griffin was sworn in as the 57th Attorney General of Arkansas on January 10, 2023, having previously served as the state's 20th Lieutenant Governor from 2015-2023. From 2011-2015, Griffin served as the 24th representative of Arkansas's Second Congressional District, where he served on the House Committee on Ways and Means, House Armed Services Committee, House Committee on Foreign Affairs, House Committee on Ethics and House Committee on the Judiciary while also serving as a Deputy Whip for the Majority.

Griffin is currently an officer in the Arkansas Army National Guard and holds the rank of colonel. Griffin served as an officer in the U.S. Army Reserve Judge Advocate General's (JAG) Corps for more than 28 years. In 2005, Griffin was mobilized to active duty as an Army prosecutor at Fort Campbell, Kentucky, and served with the 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault) in Mosul, Iraq.

His previous assignments include serving as the Commander of the 2d Legal Operations Detachment in New Orleans, Louisiana; the Commander of the 134th Legal Operations Detachment at Fort Bragg, North Carolina; and as a Senior Legislative Advisor to the Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness at the Pentagon. Griffin earned a master's degree in strategic studies as a Distinguished Honor Graduate from the U.S. Army War College, Carlisle Barracks, Pennsylvania.

Griffin also served as U.S. Attorney for the Eastern District of Arkansas, and Special Assistant to the President and Deputy Director of Political Affairs for President George W. Bush; Special Assistant to Assistant Attorney General Michael Chertoff, Criminal Division, U.S. Department of Justice; Special Assistant U.S. Attorney, U.S. Attorney's Office, Eastern District of Arkansas; Senior Investigative Counsel, Government Reform and Oversight Committee, U.S. House of Representatives; and Associate Independent Counsel, Office of Independent Counsel David M. Barrett, In re: HUD Secretary Henry Cisneros.

Griffin is a graduate of Magnolia High School, Hendrix College in Conway, and Tulane Law School in New Orleans. He attended graduate school at Oxford University. He is admitted to practice law in Arkansas (active) and Louisiana (inactive). Griffin lives in Little Rock with his wife, Elizabeth, a Camden native, and their three children.

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