# FILED <br> SEARCH WARRANT <br> hallco.ga. <br> IN THE MAGISTRATE COURT OF HALL CEOORNFT 29 AM II: 36 STATE OF GEORGIA <br>  

## TO: ALL PEACE OFFICERS OF THE STATE OF GEORGIA

Affidavit having been made before me by Scott Lilly, a peace officer charged with the duty of enforcing the Criminal Laws, which he has reason to believe that in Hall County, Georgia located at 1301 Aviation Blvd. Gainesville, Georgia. Beginning at the intersection of Industrial Blvd. and Aviation Blvd, Both marked county roads. Travel south on Aviation Blvd to the first commercial business on the right hand side of the roadway, which is the business of North Georgia Equipment Sales, LLC and is clearly marked as same. The said premises to be searched being a commercial office building. The premises to be searched is located in Hall County Georgia.

THERE IS NOW BEING CONCEALED CERTAIN PROPERTY, NAMELY: Papers and or writings relating to the purchase or sale of Heavy Equipment, Financial Records such as account statements, General Ledgers, receipts of monies taken in and or paid out, Spreadsheets, computers and computer equipment to include, but not limited to central processing units; internal and peripheral storage devices such as fixed disks, external hard disks, floppy disks and diskettes, tape drives and tapes, optical storage devices or other memory storage devices; together with system documentation, operating logs and documentation; and software and instruction manuals.

WHICH ARE: Evidence of the crime of Theff/Conversion and Theff/Deception.
Based upon affidavit given under oath or affirmation and all other evidence given to me under oath or affirmation, I am satisfied that there is probable cause to believe that a crime is being committed or has been committed and that the property described above is presently located on the premises, or property described above.

You are hereby commanded to enter, search and seize within ten (10) days of this date, the person, premises, or property described above. A copy of this Warrant is to be left with the vehicle, or if no person is available, on the vehicle being searched, and a written return, including an inventory of any things, seized, shall be made before me or a Court of competent jurisdiction without unnecessary delay after the execution of this Search Warrant.

SO ORDERED this $/ 5 \mathrm{H}$ day of October, 2008, at 1.05 A M.


Judge of the Magistrate C burt Hall County, Georgia $\square$


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2008 OCT 29 AM II: 36
magistrate court

## NO-KNOCK PROVISION (Not Valid Unless Signed)



IT APPEARING from the aforementioned Affidavit that there are reasonable grounds to believe that the giving of verbal notice would greatly increase the officer's peril and (or) lead to the immediate destruction of the instruments, articles or things ordered to be seized.

IT IS, THEREFORE, ORDERED that entry be made without knocking and the giving of verbal notice of the officer's authority and purpose.

SO ORDERED this $\qquad$ day of $\qquad$ 20 $\qquad$ at $\qquad$ . M.

Judge of the Magistrate Court Hall County, Georgia

## RETURN OF SERVICE

[ ] This Search Warrant was not executed and is returned to the judicial officer who issued it.
[x] I executed this Search Warrant on the 15 day of 0 Ctabc2 $20<8$ at $0,30 \quad$.M. and searched the person, premises or property described in the warrant.

A copy of this warrant:
[ ] Was left with $\qquad$
[x] Was leftin the following conspicuous place: Cir Desk in Main
office
 because no one was available to be given the warrant:

Attached hereto is an inventory consisting of $\qquad$ pages, of the instruments, articles or things which were seized pursuant to this Search Warrant. This inventory was made in the presence of $\qquad$
$\qquad$ and I swear (affirm) that this inventory is a true and detailed account of all instrument, articles or things seized pursuant to this Search Warrant.

Sworn and subscribed to before
 me this
 day of



AFFIDAVIT FOR SEARCH WARRANT
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MAGISTRATE COURT


Now comes your Affiant: Scott Lilly whom states under oath that he is an Investigator with the Hall County Sheriff's Office. Your Affiant has been employed by the Hall County Sheriff's Office for Sixteen (16) years. Your Affiant is duly sworn to conduct criminal investigations concerning violations of the Georgia Criminal Codes.

Your Affiant has reason to believe that at the said property located at 1301 Aviation Blvd. Gainesville, Georgia. Beginning at the intersection of Industrial Blvd. and Aviation Blvd, Both marked county roads. Travel south on Aviation Blvd to the first commercial business on the right hand side of the roadway, which is the business of North Georgia Equipment Sales, LLC and is clearly marked as same. The said premises to be searched being a commercial office building. The premises to be searched is located in Hall County Georgia.

THERE IS NOW BEING CONCEALED CERTAIN PROPERTY, NAMELY: Papers and or writings relating to the purchase or sale of Heavy Equipment, Financial Records such as account statements, General Ledgers, receipts of monies taken in and or paid out, Spreadsheets, computers and computer equipment to include, but not limited to central processing units; internal and peripheral storage devices such as fixed disks, external hard disks, floppy disks and diskettes, tape drives and tapes, optical storage devices or other memory storage devices; together with system documentation, operating logs and documentation; and software and instruction manuals.

WHICH ARE: Evidence of the crime of Theft/Conversion and Theft/Deception.
The facts tending to establish the grounds for the issuance of this search warrant are as follows:

On Tuesday, October 14, 2008, Affiant was requested by Deputy Sosebee to respond to 1301 Aviation Blvd. to the business of North Georgia Equipment Sales, LLC. Upon arrival Affiant was briefed on the investigation and was able to speak to Chad Aman and Mike Weaver who provided information on the current investigation. Weaver stated that he and Aman, as well as 30 to 35 other investors are or have been in recent past involved in business transactions with Wendall Spell. Both Weaver and Aman stated to Affiant that they have invested large sums of money being in access of $\$ 100,000$ and as much as $\$ 1,000,000$ or more. Both Weaver and Aman stated they would purchase pieces of Heavy Equipment through Wendall Spell, who would then turn around and sale the purchased equipment for profit which would be divided between Mr . Spell and the owner of said equipment.

Mr. Weaver stated that on Saturday, October 11, 2008 he confronted Mr. Spell who owed him a large sum of money for money which Mr. Weaver had invested for the purchase of Heavy Equipment, but had not yet received the profit for said investment when Mr. Spell sold the Heavy Equipment. Mr. Weaver admitted to Affiant that he threatened Mr. Spell with incarceration and after making said threats, Mr. Spell drafted a bill of sale giving Mr. Weaver ownership and possession of approximately 60 pieces of Heavy Equipment and attachments. Mr. Weaver stated that these pieces of Equipment taken by him were currently in a storage area located off of Athens Highway.

Mr. Aman stated that Mike Weaver when removing said equipment took a piece of equipment which had been purchased by Mr. Aman from Mr. Spell. A verbal agreement between Aman and Weaver was reached for the return of this piece of Equipment. Affiant while speaking to others who also invested money with Mr. Spell, stated that Mike Weaver had also taken Heavy Equipment which had been purchased by them from Mr. Spell and removed said Equipment from the property.

Affiant spoke with Michael Smith who purchased a 1999 Caterpillar 953C for the sum of $\$ 57,000$ on August 11, 2008. This same piece of Heavy Equipment was signed over to Mike Weaver on October 11, 2008 by Mr. Spell stating that the piece of Heavy Equipment was free and clear of all encumbrances and had a clear Title.

Affiant also spoke with Matt Handte who stated that he too invested money with Mr. Spell and that during September he provided Mr. Spell with almost $\$ 300,000$ to purchase Heavy Equipment. Mr. Handte provided copies of e-mails from both Mr. Spell and Betty Sullivan (Book Keeper for Mr. Spell) during the months of September and October of 2008. These e-mails consisted of photos of Heavy Equipment to be purchased by Mr. Spell, conversations on wire transfers for the sale of said equipment. An e-mail to Mr. Handte from Betty Sullivan mentions scanning information into her computer as well as adjusting spreadsheets on her computer. Mr. Handte stated that he was provided pictures and PIN numbers for 22005 D8T Caterpillar's which were supposed to have been purchased by Mr. Spell. Mr. Handte stated that after he grew suspicious of Mr. Spell not returning phone calls or e-mails, or continuously stalling, Mr. Handte went online at heavyequipment.com and ran the PIN numbers of the 2 pieces of Heavy Equipment. Mr. Handte stated that he found these two pieces of Equipment were for sale in Grand Prairie Texas and had not been purchased by Mr. Spell as Mr. Handte had been previously advised.

Mr. Handte provided printed out copies of e-mail correspondences between himself and Mr. Spell about the numbers being incorrect. Mr. Spell responded giving the numbers of two more pieces of the same Heavy Equipment which Mr. Handte was advised was at Kelly Tractor in West Palm Beach Florida. Mr. Handte stated that he contacted Kelly Tractor and was advised by an employee that no wire transfer or purchase order had been enacted by Mr. Spell. Mr. Handte provided Affiant with copies of e-mail's between himself, Mr. Spell and Betty Sullivan during the month of September and October where Mr. Handte continuously made an effort to receive payment from Mr. Spell and did not receive e-mails from Mr. Spell, but received e-mails from Betty Sullivan instead. Affiant was advised by Mr. Aman that Betty Sullivan recently quit and was no longer employed at the business, however her computer remains at the business.

Affiant was also advised by Mr. Handte that he had a Bill of Sale on a 2006 Terex PIN number TXC340-LC-2 which was purchased by him from Mr. Spell on August 16, 2008 who signed over this same piece of Heavy Equipment to Mike Weaver stating it was free and clear of any encumbrances and had a clear Title on October 11, 2008 to settle a debt owed to Mr. Weaver by Mr. Spell.

Based on the above stated facts, your Affiant believes there is now being concealed evidence of the crimes detailed in this affidavit. Affiant makes this affidavit so that a search warrant may be issued for the aforesaid property.

Sworn and subscribed to before


# Hall County Sheriff's Office 

Property and Evidence Form

FILED
HALLCO.GA.

Case Number

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08 \quad 109122
$$

$\frac{08}{\frac{08}{}-2}$
Deputy/ Investigator

Victims)

## Type Charges by deception (F)

Owner (Name and Phone Number)

Arresters) [ Suspects)

## Owner's Physical Address

1301 Aviation Bid Gainesulif Ga 30501

## *** All U.S. currency, drugs, and firearms must be submitted on separate Property and Evidence Forms


***Attention property owners and/or claimants: You must notify the HCSO Property and Evidence Unit in writing within 90 days of the closure of this case of your intent to claim your property. After 90 days the property in this case will be disposed of.***


