Two arrested in joint financial crimes investigation

Thursday, May 24, 2018

Two men are in jail today for their involvement in crimes that netted over $143,000 through fraudulent wire transfers, said Sheriff Steve Prator.

Patrick Tayon Babila, 33, and Thadius Pugh, 34, were arrested on Tuesday following a joint investigation by the Caddo Sheriff's Office, Shreveport Police Department, and the FBI. Babila was booked into the Caddo Correctional Center on three counts of Illegal Transmission of Monetary Funds, and Pugh was booked on two counts of the same charge.

Sheriff's Det. Doug Smith and Police Det. Jeff Bordelon investigated the cases which involved complaints from two out-of-state victims that had business wire transfers fraudulently diverted to a Shreveport bank account after their emails were compromised.

The first complaint was from a man in Hermosa Beach, CA, who was communicating with a company by email as he was considering whether to invest in the company. The company's email account was later hacked, and once the man decided to invest, he received instructions via the hacked account to wire his $50,000 investment to a Shreveport bank account in Pugh's name.

In a separate instance, a Florida company received an email advising it to send future vendor payments to a new bank account, also in Pugh's name. That company wired $814,000 but once it learned the vendor's email had been hacked it was able to recall the wire transfer and get all but $93,559 returned.

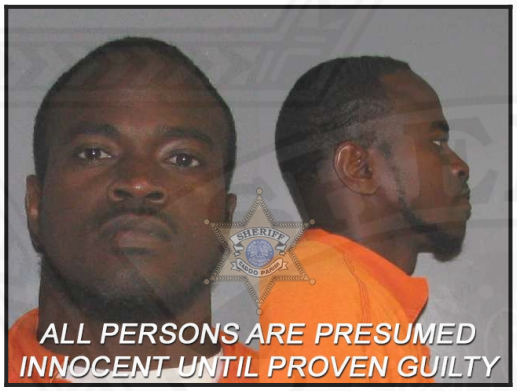
On Tuesday, the Caddo-Shreveport Financial Crimes Task Force, Caddo Sheriff's Office Warrants Unit, and the FBI executed a search warrant at 350 Boulevard Street and took Pugh into custody. Babila was arrested on an outstanding SPD warrant at 7108 Creswell Avenue.

Bookings



Babila, Patrick

So# 132001
Jacket# 132001
Dob: 01/09/1985
Race: B Sex: M
Height: 5' 10" Weight: 150



Pugh, Thadius

So# 96318
Jacket# 96318
Dob: 09/29/1983
Race: B Sex: M
Height: 5' 9" Weight: 195