

POTSDAM POLICE DEPARTMENT

MEDIA RELEASE

Authorized By: _____ Date: _____

After a ten month investigation, investigators of the Potsdam Police Department who were greatly assisted by investigators and staff from the New York State Racing and Wagering Board, arrested two individuals for their participation in the larceny of funds from a Special Bell Jar Operations Checking Account from the Roy D. Graves VFW Post 1194 on Market Street in the Village of Potsdam.

The investigation stemmed from an audit that was performed by the NYS Racing and Wagering Board that revealed a shortage of over \$32,000.00 from the Bell Jar Account during a period of time from January 2003 to December 2008.

Arrested on 8/5/09 for the Felony of Grand Larceny in Fourth Degree was Kimberly A. Pryce, 02/10/62 of Potsdam. Kimberly Pryce was arraigned in the Village of Potsdam Court by the Honorable Tim Welch and was released to Probation supervision. Arrested on 8/6/09 for the felony of Grand Larceny in the Fourth Degree and 5 felony counts of Falsifying Business Records in the First Degree, was John J. Sweeney, 6/22/67, of Massena. Mr. Sweeney was arraigned in the Village of Potsdam Court by the Honorable Tim Welch and was released to Probation supervision. Both are to return to the Village of Potsdam Court on August 12, 2009 at 9:30am.

State Racing and Wagering Board Chairman John D. Sabini saluted the Potsdam Police officers who participated in the investigation that led to the arrests. "These arrests send a resounding message that serious consequences await those who exploit their connections with charitable groups to divert funds away from the intended beneficiaries", said Chairman Sabini. "The sale of bell jar tickets and other forms of charitable gaming are great ways for the community groups to raise much needed funding. We work closely with hundreds of charitable groups. The Board has no tolerance for anyone who would siphon money away from charitable organizations that are authorized to conduct games of chance".

Potsdam Police would like to thank the members of the NYS Racing and Wagering Board for their assistance. Potsdam Police investigators also report that the investigation is continuing and further charges are possible.