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Media Release

Counterfeit Currency on the Rise

Police want local businesses to be on the look-out for an increase in counterfeit currency circulated in Colonial Heights. Counterfeit currency is not unusual in the city; however, the latest counterfeit bills to be circulated are different.

In the last month, ten counterfeit bills have been received by retailers and government offices in the city. The notes, presented as \$100 bills, are actually \$5 bills that have been washed to remove ink and reprinted to appear as a \$100 bill. Counterfeit detection pens commonly used by retailers will not detect the counterfeit because the bills are reprinted on genuine treasury paper; however, other tell-tale signs of a counterfeit are still present. In each case, the watermark of Abraham Lincoln appears to the right of the printed face of Benjamin Franklin. Also present on the counterfeit bills is the **USA 5** security thread appearing to the left of Benjamin Franklin.

A simple check of security features only takes seconds and will verify the validity of currency. The following security features should be checked:

- Red/Blue Fibers
- Security Thread (currency 1990+)
- Color Shifting Ink ((currency 1996+)
- Micro Printing (currency 1990+)
- Watermark Portrait (currency 1996+)

Counterfeit bills printed on ink jet printers will usually experience ink runs or smears when wet. Ink jet print is made up of tiny colored ink dots which can often be seen by looking at a bill closely or with a magnifying glass.

To date in 2010, recovered counterfeit currency in Colonial Heights has exceeded half of the total counterfeit currency recovered in 2009.