



**Springfield Police Department
City of Springfield, Illinois**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
August 17, 2010

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SPRINGFIELD POLICE WARN OF HOME REPAIR SCAM

Recommend anyone victimized should notify authorities

Springfield Police say the operator of an unlicensed construction business who has been charged with bilking several residents out of thousands of dollars in bogus home repairs, may have victimized additional people in Central Illinois.

Late last year Jeremy Lee Sorenson of 127 N. Glenwood was charged with two counts of theft by deception for allegedly taking about \$40,000 from individuals as down payments, but never completing the promised work. When he was out of jail, he was arrested again on similar charges for pocketing a \$6,000 down payment while no work was completed.

He operated under the business name of JLS Construction, but has also used the name of Lee's Construction claiming to be Erin Johnson, an employee of Sorenson. The most recent charge was filed on August 12th. He is being held in the Sangamon County Jail with a bond of \$100,000.

"This individual might be out of jail soon and attempt to operate this scam again," said Police Chief Robert Williams. "We want the public to be aware of the precautions needed to prevent becoming a victim of home repair fraud. Get everything in writing. Do not be pressured into signing a contract, especially if it has empty blanks. And, you have the right to cancel the contract within three days."

There may be additional people who had been victimized by this individual, but have not come forward. If you think you were a victim of this, or any other, home repair scam, please contact the Springfield Police Department at 788-8311.

Attorney General Lisa Madigan's office has produced a pamphlet entitled *Home Repair: Know Your Consumer Rights*, which details how to avoid becoming a victim of home repair fraud. Her office can be contacted at 1-800-243-0618 or through her website at www.IllinoisAttorneyGeneral.gov.

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