**CHIEF OF POLICE** | **BRENT SHATTO** | 114 North 6th St | Estherville, IA 51334 | (712) 362-3515

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Ref: News Release

**MULTIPLE AGENCIES INVOLVED IN ARREST OF COUNTERFEIT CURRENCY SUSPECT**

On Friday, February 28th, 2020, the Estherville Police Department received a report of a suspect that had passed a counterfeit $100 bill at a local hardware store. The owner of the store reported that while he was running the cash register at the store, he noticed that there was a bill that was counterfeit. The store owner asked a near by cashier about the bill at the same time that the suspect had returned to the store to use another bill. The suspect became nervous and ran out of the store. The store owner followed the suspect out of the store in an attempt to gather his vehicle information. The suspect got in his vehicle and fled the area. The store owner followed the suspect and called the police. The suspect fled at a high rate of speed and was last seen near Dolliver. Emmet County Sheriff’s Deputies were dispatched to the area in an attempt to locate the suspect.

Estherville Police Officers responded to the store and were able to view video of the suspect and the vehicle. Officers forwarded photos of the suspect and vehicle to officers that were out looking for the suspect. Deputies in Martin County Minnesota were also advised that the suspect may becoming into their county.

A Martin County Deputy was able to positively identify the suspect from the vehicle description and the photos obtained from the hardware store. The suspect was identified as Erik V. Godwin, age 39, of Dunnell, Minnesota.

Estherville Officers also forwarded information to the Fairmont Police Department and the Martin County Sheriff’s Office of an address that the suspect may be at in the City of Fairmont. There were also warrants issued from a previous case filed by the Estherville Police Department for Godwin. Officers from Fairmont Police Department and Martin County Sheriff’s Office went to the residence in Fairmont and captured the suspect fleeing from an apartment building.

Godwin was arrested by the Martin County Sheriff’s Office and transported to the Martin County Jail by the Fairmont Police Department. Godwin was also found to be in possession of additional counterfeit $100 bills during his arrest.

Godwin faces a tremendous amount of charges in Minnesota and Iowa as a result of this one-day crime spree. In Minnesota, he was charged with Possession of Counterfeit Currency, Possession of Marijuana, Driving After Suspension, Fleeing a Police Officer, and Possession of Drug Paraphernalia.

In Iowa Godwin faces the following. 5 Outstanding Emmet County Arrest Warrants, 2 Counts of Forgery, 4 Counts of Failure to Obey Traffic Control Device, Driving While Suspended, Excessive Speed, Reckless Driving, Unsafe Passing, and Ongoing Criminal Conduct.

Godwin remains in the Martin County Jail and will later face extradition to Emmet County to face his charges.

The Estherville Police Department would like to thank the store management and employees for their assistance in solving this case, as well as, the Emmet County Sheriff’s Office, the Martin County Sheriff’s Office, and the Fairmont Police Department.