

OPERATION HOMELESS



BANKER'S INSTITUTE
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AUSA John Cowles
Kansas City, Missouri

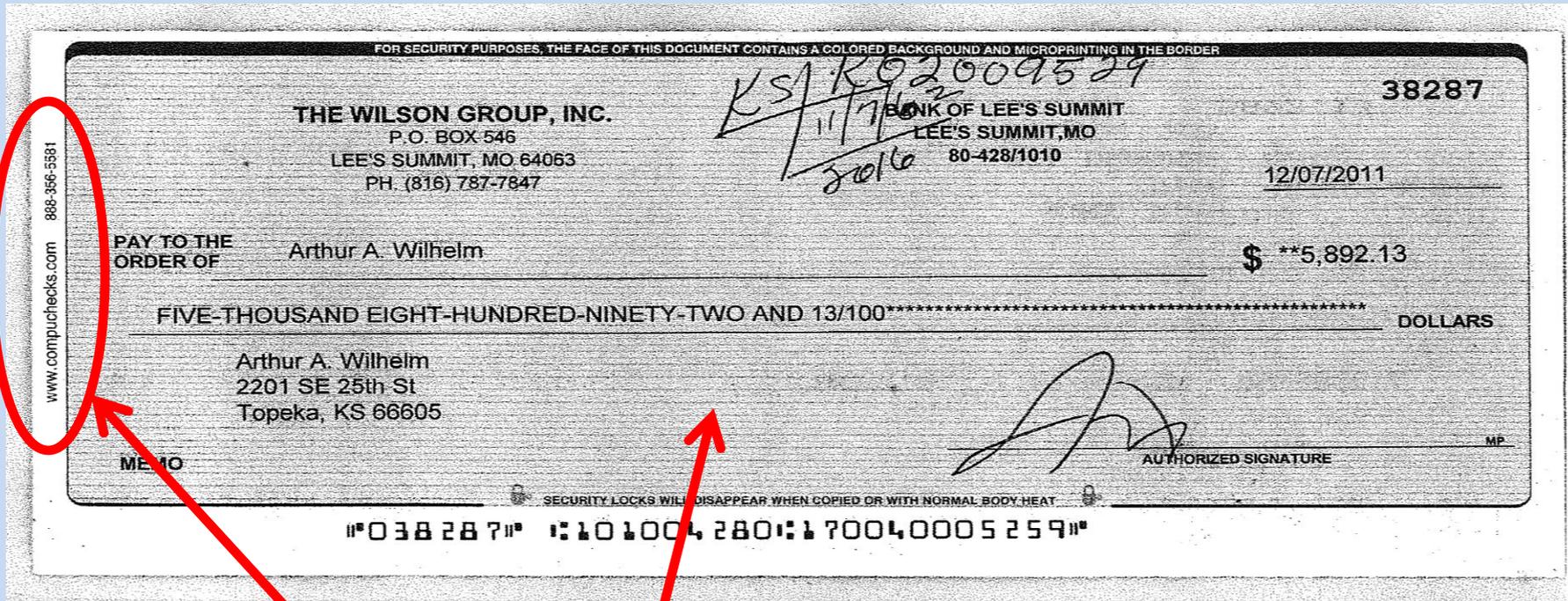
The scheme starts with theft of mail from mailboxes at business parks. Incoming and outgoing checks are stolen for the purpose of obtaining the bank routing information and the authorized signatures on the business accounts.



Drivers from Atlanta are directed to homeless shelters in Kansas City where they recruit homeless men to pass the counterfeit payroll checks. Usually, \$400 is paid to the check passer for every successful check.

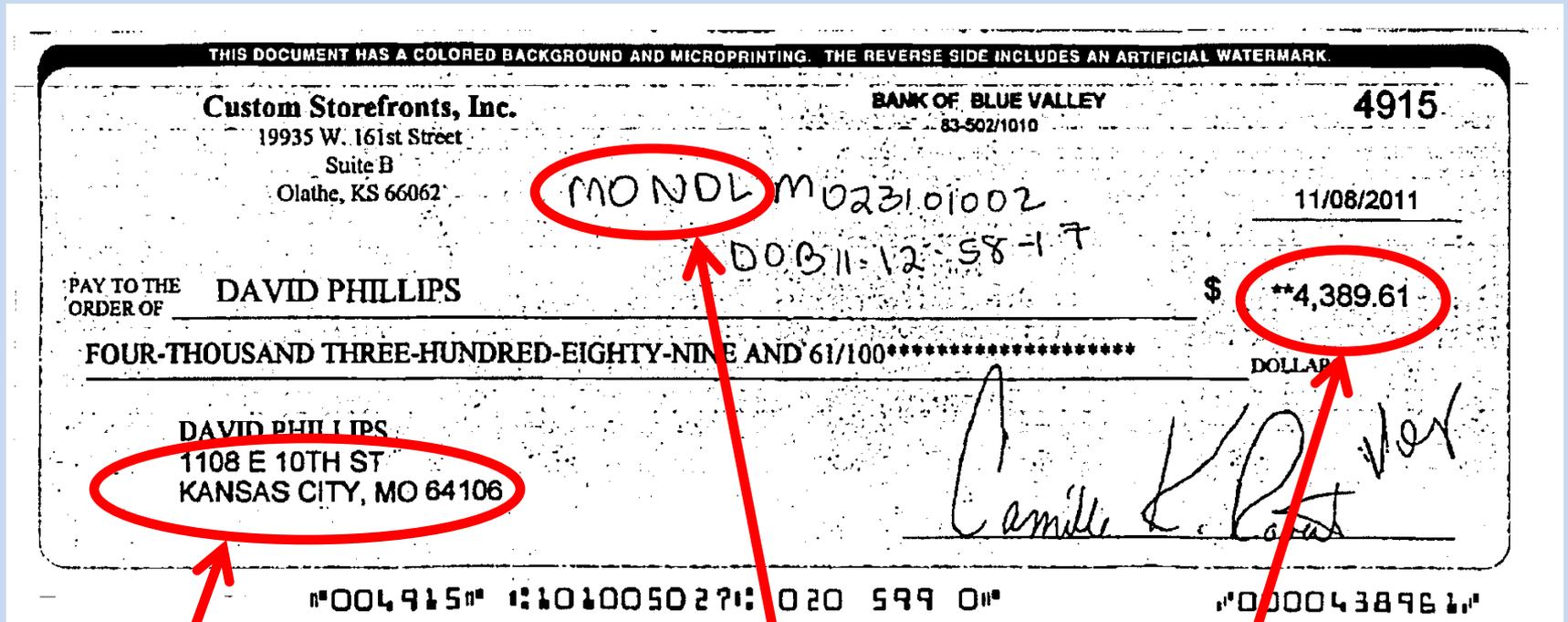


COMPUCHECK COUNTERFEIT PAYROLL CHECK



Any Compuchek “pinstripe” design check stock should be considered suspicious. Please report any attempted or passed counterfeit checks on this check stock to Postal Inspector Steve Ryan, 913-266-2445.

MIPS VERSACHECK COUNTERFEIT PAYROLL CHECK



Address of
City Union Mission

Non-Drivers License

Large dollar amount

Modus Operandi at the Banks

1. Homeless men are used to pass the counterfeit payroll checks. They pass the checks using their true names and government identification, usually NDL's.
2. Checks are passed inside the bank lobby, not drive-through.
3. Check passers walk up to the bank. When leaving, they go to a nearby fast food restaurant.
4. The homeless men work in pairs.
5. Often the homeless men are given new clothes to wear to the bank.

Scope of the Problem

1. \$300,000 in counterfeit checks passed so far in Kansas City.
2. Suspects purchased 1,000 Compucheck checks in 2011.
3. Suspects returned to KC even after arrests.
4. Over \$7 million in counterfeit checks passed nationwide.
5. None of the organizers arrested to date.