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Pennsylvania Attorney General

AG Sunday, Pa. State Police Charge Philadelphia Man in Vehicle Title-Washing Scheme Involving \$3.8M in Stolen Luxury Vehicles

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PHILADELPHIA — Attorney General Dave Sunday, along with the Pennsylvania State Police, announced charges against a Philadelphia man for his role in a vehicle title-washing scheme that facilitated the black market sales of dozens of stolen luxury vehicles — valued at nearly \$4 million.

[Adam K. Richardson](#), 40, is [charged](#) with numerous felonies, including corrupt organizations, vehicle title washing, forgery, dealing in proceeds of unlawful activity, and related offenses. Richardson was arrested Friday and arraigned, when he was denied bail.

The Office of Attorney General's Insurance Fraud Section and the Pennsylvania State Police's Auto Theft East Unit collaborated on an investigation that revealed Richardson — an authorized tag agent for PennDOT — submitted to the state agency falsified paperwork connected to 65 stolen vehicles. The vehicles were given Pennsylvania titles, then sold by the persons who used Richardson for the illegal title washing service.

"The scope and harm from this criminal enterprise went beyond cutting corners to obtain paperwork — many of these vehicles were sold to individuals who knew they were stolen," Attorney General Sunday said. "That is particularly concerning as washed vehicles provide criminals the means to move around and perpetrate crimes without being detected by law enforcement."

Pennsylvania State Police Captain James Reinard, Director of the Special Investigations Division, Bureau of Criminal Investigation, said:

"This investigation, initiated by the Pennsylvania State Police, with assistance from the Pa. Office of Attorney General, revealed an organized effort to steal and fraudulently re-title 65 vehicles, impacting victims across multiple jurisdictions. Thanks to the dedication of our

members and partner agencies, those responsible are now being held accountable. The Pennsylvania State Police remain committed to protecting the Commonwealth from these types of crimes.”

The investigation is ongoing. More charges could be filed in connection with the stolen vehicles.

Nearly all of the involved vehicles were high-end brands, including a quarter-of-a-million-dollar Ferrari, several Mercedes and BMWs, and Cadillacs.

In all, investigators identified 65 vehicles — valued at more than \$3.8 million — that were sold. Nearly 40 vehicles have been recovered.

The investigation began when the Pennsylvania State Police identified stolen vehicles and discovered they had been titled by Richardson. From there, state police partnered with the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation to launch a broader investigation, and, later, the Office of Attorney General’s Insurance Fraud Section.

The investigation revealed that Richardson was known as the “tag guy” where individuals took vehicles they knew were stolen for title washing to be resold at huge profits. Richardson was paid a fee to wash the titles.

The case will be prosecuted by the Office of Attorney General’s Insurance Fraud Section. Criminal charges, and any discussion thereof, are merely allegations and all defendants are presumed innocent until and unless proven guilty.

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