



Rick Staly, Sheriff
FLAGLER COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

"An honor to serve, a duty to protect."

NEWS RELEASE

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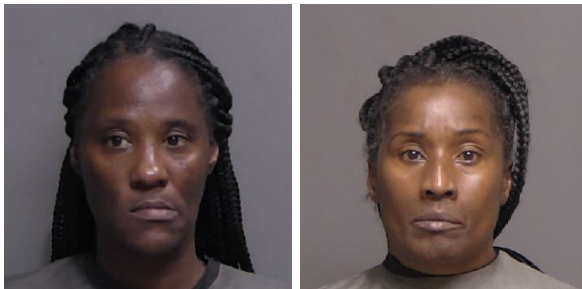
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CASE UPDATE: Second Popeyes Employee Arrested in Organized Scheme to Defraud Customers

BUNNELL, Fla. — A second suspect involved in an organized scheme to defraud customers at a Palm Coast Popeyes is behind bars following the completion of a seven-month fraud investigation led by the Flagler County Sheriff's Office General Assignment Unit.

On Oct. 15, the FCSO Fugitive Apprehension Unit, with assistance from the FCSO Problem Area Crime Enforcement Unit, arrested Shaunta Johnson, 42, of Palm Coast, on an active felony warrant issued this week.

Through investigative means, detectives determined that Johnson and her coworker and close friend, Chaniqua Richberg, 49, of Palm Coast, fraudulently charged customer credit cards while working the Popeyes drive-thru and that Johnson orchestrated the scheme to make commissary payments to her boyfriend, an inmate at Apalachee Correctional Institution, West Unit, in Sneads, Florida.



Shaunta Johnson (L) and Chaniqua Richberg (R) (Sheriff Perry Hall Inmate Detention Facility mugshots)

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“Our detectives worked diligently to identify and arrest those responsible for defrauding unsuspecting Popeyes customers,” said Sheriff Rick Staly. “Thanks to the cooperation of the new owners of Popeyes, we were able to put the missing pieces together and arrest the mastermind in this case, in addition to her associate, and hold them both accountable for their crimes. While they won’t be joining ‘friends’ who are already locked up in a prison cell, they are on a fast track to sleeping in a prison cell.”

Johnson was arrested on multiple felony charges, including organized scheme to defraud, three counts of fraudulent use of a credit card, three counts of unlawful use of a two-way communication device, and three counts of fraudulent use of personal identification information. She was transported to the Sheriff Perry Hall Inmate Detention Facility, where she is being held without bond.

Johnson has a lengthy criminal history, including but not limited to previous arrests for fraud, cocaine sales and possession, larceny, resisting arrest, destroying evidence, illegal use of a two-way communication device, and operating a childcare facility without a license.

Richberg, who was previously convicted of fraud in an unrelated Pennsylvania case, was arrested in April for fraudulent use of a credit card, unlawful use of a two-way communication device, and fraudulent use of personal identification information. She is currently out on bond.

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Original Release Date: April 14, 2025
Original Release #: 2025 – 065

Popeyes Employee Arrested for Credit Card Fraud

BUNNELL, Fla. — On April 11, the Flagler County Sheriff’s Office General Assignment Unit and Problem Area Crime Enforcement arrested Chaniqua Richberg, 48, of Palm Coast, for fraudulently charging a customer’s credit card while working the drive-thru at Popeyes in Palm Coast.

On March 20, the victim reported witnessing Richberg tapping her credit card twice: once for her drive-thru order then again to a cell phone. Later that day, the victim found an unauthorized charge of \$311.90 on her account and reported it to law enforcement.

During the investigation, detectives determined the fraudulent transaction was for a commissary payment to an inmate at Apalachee Correctional Institution, West Unit, in Sneads, Florida.

“This woman thought she could get away with stealing from a customer and giving money to a state prison inmate,” said Sheriff Rick Staly. “But unlucky for her, the customer was paying attention and

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noticed the fraudulent charge, so now Richberg gets to join her friend in jail! I encourage everyone to be attentive during transactions and report anything suspicious to law enforcement.”

General Assignment and PACE Unit detectives located Richberg working at Popeyes and arrested her for Fraudulent Use of Personal ID Information, Fraudulent Use of a Credit Card (Greater than \$100), and Unlawful Use of Two-Way Communications Device. She was transported to the Sheriff Perry Hall Inmate Detention Facility, where she was later released on a \$7,500 bond.



Chaniqua Richberg (Sheriff Perry Hall Inmate Detention Facility mugshot)

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