

ALABAMA SECURITIES COMMISSION
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MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA 36130-4700
Telephone: (334) 242-2984 or 1-800-222-1253 Fax: (334) 242-0240
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Jefferson County Man Arrested for Alleged Violations of Alabama Securities Act

MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA (November 26, 2008) The Honorable Brandon K. Falls, District Attorney for the 10th Judicial Circuit, Birmingham, Alabama; and, the Honorable Joseph Borg, Director of the Alabama Securities Commission (ASC), announce the arrest of Cornelious Brown III, a resident of Birmingham, Alabama, for alleged violations of the Alabama Securities Act. Brown was arrested November 18, 2008 by Jefferson County Sheriff's deputies and transported to the Jefferson County detention facility where he was later released under \$30,000 bond.

As a result of an ASC investigation, a seven-count indictment was returned against Brown by a Jefferson County Grand Jury, alleging one count each of Sale of Unregistered Securities and Sale of Securities by an Unregistered Agent; and, five counts of Fraud in Connection with the Sale of Securities. All charges are classified as Class C felonies under Alabama law.

The indictment alleges that Brown, doing business as Providential Financial Group, Inc. (PFG), fraudulently solicited multiple investments. The indictment further alleges that Brown used the investment funds for personal and other non-business expenses. Alabama securities law specifies that it is illegal to offer for sale any unregistered security into, within or from Alabama. Brown is not registered by the ASC to conduct securities business in Alabama and there is no record of registration for Providential Financial Group, Inc., or for the investment Brown offered and sold to the investor.

The ASC cautions potential investors to thoroughly scrutinize and research any investment opportunity or offer. Contact the ASC with inquiries concerning securities broker-dealers, agents, investment advisers, investment adviser representatives, financial planners, registration status of securities, to report suspected fraud or to obtain consumer information.

(NOTE: An arrest or indictment is not evidence that the defendant committed the crime(s) charged. The defendant is presumed innocent until the government meets its burden of proving guilt beyond reasonable doubt in court).

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For further information contact Dan Lord, Education and Public Affairs Manager, (334) 353-4858 or email: dan.lord@asc.alabama.gov.

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