

ALABAMA SECURITIES COMMISSION

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Email: asc@asc.alabama.gov Website: www.asc.alabama.gov

California Man Indicted for “Prime Bank” Scheme in Baldwin County

MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA (December 13, 2013) Hallie S. Dixon, District Attorney for the 28th Judicial Circuit, Baldwin County, Alabama; and Joseph Borg, Director of the Alabama Securities Commission (ASC) announced that John Childs, a resident of Danville, California, turned himself in to the Baldwin County Sheriff’s Department on December 11, 2013. Upon his surrender to authorities, Childs was arrested based on a November, 2013 Baldwin County Grand Jury indictment alleging two counts of securities fraud. Specifically, Child’s was charged with employing a device, scheme or artifice to defraud, and engaging in an act, practice or course of business which operates as a fraud or deceit upon any person. Childs was released on \$100,000 cash bond. Conditions of his release specified that he surrender his passport, have no further communications with any and all co-defendants, and must not commit violations of any state, federal or international banking laws.

Childs allegedly promoted and accepted investor funds in a “prime bank” investment scam involving Richard James Tucker, of Robertsdale, Alabama, and Synergy Finance Group, LLC. At the time the offenses were committed, all charges were classified as Class C felonies under Alabama law, carrying a maximum punishment of one to ten years incarceration and not more than a \$15,000 fine per charge. Childs will be arraigned at a later date.

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 or debt management programs, to report suspected fraud or to obtain consumer information. The ASC provides free investor education and fraud prevention materials in print, on our website and through educational presentations upon request.

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For further information contact Dan Lord, Education and Public Affairs Manager, 334-353-4858.

(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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