

**ALABAMA SECURITIES COMMISSION**

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**Florida Man Pleads Guilty to Securities Fraud in Autauga County**

MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA (August 8, 2019) Randall Houston, District Attorney for the 19th Judicial Circuit, Autauga County, Alabama; and Joseph P. Borg, Director of the Alabama Securities Commission (ASC) announced that on August 6, 2019, Harry James Walker (Walker), who has recently been residing in Mississippi, pled guilty before the Honorable Circuit Court Judge Sibley G. Reynolds to Securities Fraud for fraudulent investments related to a water bottling plant.

Between June 2012 through July 2013, Walker, who held himself out as the owner of water bottling plant located in Autauga County, AL, sold promissory notes and shares of stock in companies he claimed were associated with the plant, including; Global First, Inc., Autauga Water Bottling, Inc., Atagi, Inc. The investigation revealed that Walker was not authorized to sell the shares of stock and, as part of his solicitations, he overstated the value of the company. Furthermore, investors were told that the money would be used to operate the water bottling plant, but instead investor funds were diverted to Walker's personal expenses and to expenses related to companies associated with Walker.

Walker was ordered by Judge Reynolds to make complete restitution of \$607,278 to the victim investors and Walker consented to a permanent bar from participating in the securities industry within the State of Alabama. A sentencing hearing will take place on November 5, 2019. Securities Fraud is a Class B felony, punishable by not less than two years, but no more than 20 years in prison, and a fine not to exceed \$30,000.

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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