



CITY OF
FORT LAUDERDALE
POLICE DEPARTMENT
PRESS RELEASE

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**COUPLE TARGETING
HAITIAN COMMUNITY**

UPDATE 09.26.13:

The Fort Lauderdale Police Department Economic Crimes Unit has been in contact with Joan Alalof Jean. Jean is fully cooperating with this investigation.

This remains an active and on-going case. Anyone with further information is encouraged to contact Detective Erik Kirtman at 954-828-6070.

ORIGINAL 08.16.13:

The Fort Lauderdale Police Department is investigating a couple who is targeting members of the Haitian community. The couple knowingly conducted fraudulent operations through their business; Private Mortgage Funding Corporation located at 6750 North Andrews Avenue in the City of Fort Lauderdale.

The couple sought out victims seeking housing and offered to show them numerous properties throughout Broward County.

Upon locating a desirable property, the victims are instructed to sign a (90) ninety day contract and provide a down payment. The amounts of these payments range between \$5,000 and \$15,000. Once the deposit is received, the victims are told that their desired property is secured and their checks are immediately deposited into the suspects' bank account.

Detectives have learned that when a victim attempts to terminate their contract, within the (90) ninety day period, the suspects refuse to return their down payments.

The first suspect has been identified as Gabriel Chauvel, B/M, 10/21/59, known to operate his business in Broward and Palm Beach Counties, as well as Central Florida.

The second suspect has been identified as Joan Alalof Jean, B/F, 11/03/67, a resident of the City of Pembroke Pines. Jean is known to use the alias "Joanne Charles".

The Fort Lauderdale Police Department Economic Crimes Unit has received reports from at least (10) ten victims. Detectives are concerned that there may be more victims in the community and are encouraging them to come forward.

Anyone with further information regarding these incidents and suspects is urged to contact Detective Erik Kirtman at 954-828-6070.



Gabriel Chauvel



Joan Alalof Jean

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