



U.S. Department of Justice

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EVENT: Conviction

Defendant: Raymond Yono

ROYAL OAK MAN CONVICTED OF BANK FRAUD

Defendant Used Altered Social Security Checks To Steal More Than \$57,000

A Royal Oak man who inflated his social security disability checks by thousands of dollars and defrauded four banks of the money was convicted in federal court, United States Attorney Stephen J. Murphy announced today. Murphy was joined in the announcement by William Callahan, Acting Special Agent-In-Charge of the Secret Service's Detroit field office.

Raymond Yono, 37, formerly of West Bloomfield and Oak Park, has been receiving Social Security disability benefits since 1995 and Social Security survivor benefits since 2005. Each payment was for several hundred dollars. From September 2005 to March 2006, Yono had the checks altered by adding an "8" to the dollar amount payable, thereby transforming checks for \$305 to \$8,305. Yono then deposited the altered checks at accounts he held at Charter One Bank, People's Trust Credit Union, Republic Bank, and Citizens Bank. He then depleted the funds before the banks discovered the alterations, leaving the banks with losses totaling \$57,707.09. The Secret Service case agent testified that the money was likely squandered by the defendant at the Motor City Casino, where Yono has spent more than 300 hours playing the slots since September 2005.

United States Attorney Murphy said, "Fraudulent schemes that victimize financial institutions impact not only the institution, but other consumers and confidence in the banking system as well. My office will continue to vigorously pursue corrupt schemes such as the one that resulted in this conviction." United States Attorney Murphy said.

The jury deliberated for about two hours before convicting Yono on all five counts with which he was charged. Four of the counts charged bank fraud, one count for each of the affected banks. A fifth count charged Yono with altering United States Treasury instruments.

Each count of bank fraud is punishable by a maximum of 30 years imprisonment and a \$1,000,000 fine. No sentencing date has been set by Judge Patrick J. Duggan.

The case was tried by Assistant United States Attorneys Leonid Feller and Barrington Wilkins.