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News Release

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Sheriff Champagne Needs Your Help in Locating This Subject

In August of 2009, a St. Rose couple was scammed by a contractor that they paid to perform renovations on their residence. The victims received a brochure in their mailbox promoting contractor work by a company named Renovate International, which was allegedly based in the New Orleans area. The victims contacted the company, at which time a company representative by the name of S. Bently showed up at their residence and gave them a quote of \$40,000 to perform the renovations. The victim's agreed to pay Mr. Bently \$3,000 as a down payment. As of today's date, the renovations have still not been done and Mr. Bentley has not returned any of the victims' phone calls.

A press release and picture was sent to the media on September 14, 2009 asking for help in identifying this subject. Due to the overwhelming response, detectives were able to identify the suspect as Garlon D. Batiste, B/M, DOB: 11-16-62, with a last known address of 1121 Crete St., New Orleans, Louisiana. A warrant has been issued for Batiste for Felony Theft over \$500. St. Charles Parish Sheriff's Office is now asking for your help in locating the whereabouts of Batiste. Anyone having any information is asked to contact Detective Derek Pertuis at 985-783-1135 or 985-783-6807. Detectives believe that there are more victims and are asking anyone who believes they have been victimized to contact Detective Pertuis at the numbers listed above.

