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Print Page

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Hairdresser accused of stealing \$10K re-arrested for check fraud, say police

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Edward “Toni” Brunetta, 36, of 559 Sagamore Ave. #8, was arrested by Portsmouth police last week on a warrant from Somersworth police that alleges check fraud. Somersworth Police Capt. Dave Kretschmar said Brunetta is charged by his department with three misdemeanors alleging he knowingly wrote bad checks.

Those allegations echo a pending Portsmouth charge which alleges Brunetta wrote a \$230 check to a local fuel provider, got \$20 worth of gas and pocketed the difference. The check was worthless and Brunetta failed to make good on it, police allege.

Brunetta was arraigned in January for a felony alleging he embezzled \$10,668.49 between December of 2008 and February of 2011. According to an affidavit by Detective David Colby, Brunetta stole the money from a Fleet Street salon — his former employer — through the use of a salon credit card machine and a scheme involving deliveries of salon supplies.



Edward “Toni” Brunetta

Following a forensic accounting, Brunetta met with police and claimed his innocence, but the salon books and Brunetta’s own bank statements proved otherwise, according to Colby’s affidavit.

Police allege Brunetta’s criminal history includes convictions for writing bad checks and driving under the influence of alcohol.

During his January arraignment, Judge Sawako Gardner set bail at \$15,000 personal recognizance and warned Brunetta that if he does not remain of good behavior, he’ll be arrested and will have to post \$15,000 cash to be released from custody.

According to a Web site which promoted Brunetta’s hair styling services, “Toni’s magic has touched clients from all walks of life including Hillary Clinton, Celine Dion, and Whitney Houston.”

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