

Orange man indicted in home-loan case

By John Zucal
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An Orange man was arrested after he was indicted for using false information to gain more than \$2 million from mortgage lenders.

State detectives arrested Patrick Anderson, 46, Monday after an indictment charged him with using false information to obtain loans for four homes in 2007 and 2008.

The indictment, which was returned in Trenton on Friday, charged Anderson with four counts of theft by deception and one count of money laundering. Attorney General Jeffrey Chiesa said Anderson's company, AAA Investments, which he claimed was unregistered with the state, received the same charges.



Patrick Anderson

A spokeswoman for the Attorney General's Office said Monday afternoon that Anderson remained, without bail, in the Essex County



Ronald Blanchette

Jail. She added an arraignment date had not been scheduled.

State prosecutors claim AAA Investments was an unregistered

company operated from his Berkeley Avenue home. A search of the telephone number also showed a Shepard Avenue address in East Orange.

Through it, said Chiesa, four mortgage lenders were given false information about an applicants' employment, income and bank accounts in order to secure loans for unqualified buyers. Chiesa also claimed AAA Investments received payments from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development for payments to sellers, and certain fees, he alleged were not made. He added his office believes that Anderson diverted the HUD funds intended for sellers to himself and AAA Investments.

A second man, Ronald

Blanchette, 41, of North Brunswick, also was indicted on two of the theft counts. Chiesa said Blanchette worked for a company that allegedly acted as the mortgage broker for two of the loans.

Prosecutors said Anderson and his company used the false information to secure \$2.2 million in loans for homes in Montclair, Newark, Orange and McDonough, Ga. Blanchette, said Chiesa, reportedly provided false bank account information on two of the loans.

The money-laundering charge, said Chiesa, followed what his office believes was a series of actions Anderson and AAA Investments took involving the proceeds from the Newark home loan to cover a criminal activity.