



UNITED STATES ATTORNEY'S OFFICE EASTERN DISTRICT OF VIRGINIA

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Two Defendants Plead Guilty in Identity Theft Scheme

(Richmond, VA) – On February 26, 2008, Dewayne Gilmore, age 32 of Clinchco, Virginia, pled guilty to one count of Conspiracy, in violation of 18 U.S.C. § 371, and two counts of Aggravated Identity Theft, in violation of 18 U.S.C. § 1028A. On February 28, 2008, Nicole Hymon, age 25 of Richmond, Virginia, also pled guilty to one count of Conspiracy and one count of Aggravated Identity Theft. The maximum penalty for the Conspiracy conviction is 5 years in prison, a \$250,000 fine, full restitution, and 3 years of supervised release to follow any prison term. The maximum penalty for each Aggravated Identity Theft conviction is 2 years in prison consecutive to any other term of imprisonment, a \$250,000 fine, full restitution, and 1 year of supervised release. The plea was announced by Chuck Rosenberg, United States Attorney for the Eastern District of Virginia.

According to court records, Gilmore, Hymon, and others engaged in an ongoing identity theft scheme from 2006 through late 2007. In conducting the scheme, the co-conspirators would steal the personal identification information for innocent victims; open fraudulent credit accounts using the identification information; place orders for goods from legitimate businesses using the fraudulent credit accounts as the source for payments; make arrangements with third parties to receive shipments of stolen goods at their addresses; obtain the stolen goods and sell many of the items for cash; and divide the cash proceeds or stolen goods received from the operation among the co-conspirators.

Hymon obtained many of the victim's personal identification information from her job at CCO Mortgage in Richmond, Virginia. There, she was employed as a "Loss Avoidance Specialist" and stole the personal identifying information (including Social Security Numbers and Dates of Births) of a number CCO Mortgage customers. Hymon then relayed the stolen information to Gilmore. He, in turn, took the personal identification information and opened up credit accounts at Sears, J.C. Penney's, and other stores in the victims' names. Using those credit accounts, Gilmore and Hymon admitted to coordinating the purchase and delivery of electronics, appliances, and other items from those stores to various residence locations around

Virginia. Once the items were delivered, the conspirators arranged to sell the items and split the profits between them. The stolen items included big screen televisions and home theater systems valued in the 1,000's of dollars for each transaction. According to court records, this scheme involved fraudulent purchases and deliveries in Richmond, Chesapeake, Newport News, Roanoke, and Virginia Beach. The losses exceeded \$70,000.

The investigation was conducted by the United States Secret Service. Assistant United States Attorney Michael Gill is prosecuting the case for the United States.

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