



OFFICIAL MEDIA RELEASE

KENT COUNTY SHERIFF DEPARTMENT



Date: 3/8/16

Complaint Number: 16-103441, 16-111354, 16-11108, 16-106272

Type of Incident: Credit Card Fraud/Identity Theft

Reporting Officer: Sgt. Ben Cammenga

Supervisor Approval: Sgt. Ben Cammenga

The Kent County Sheriff Department has been investigating a number of identity theft/credit card fraud cases. On March 4 and March 5, the Kent County Sheriff Department arrested six subjects in three different incidents related to stolen credit card information/identity theft. The subjects are using stolen credit card information on line to make purchases or reprogramming the magnetic strip on credit cards or gift cards with stolen credit card information and using the cards to make in store purchases. In addition, suspects are using stolen personal information to obtain services/items of value such as cell phones. The details of the incidents are listed below.

16-103441

On January 21, 2016, the Kent County Sheriff Department took a report from a business in Byron Township about merchandise being purchased with a stolen credit card. The investigation over the following month revealed a 27 year old male from Detroit made purchases with at least four business in Kent County using stolen credit cards.

On March 4, 2016, the suspect was taken into custody. After his arrest Kent County detectives, with the assistance of the Detroit Police Departments, searched a couple of houses in the City of Detroit. Detectives located property such as a sofa, TV, collectible coins from victims in Kent County. They also located hundreds of credit cards, credit card numbers, social security numbers, and people's personal information along with equipment to encode the magnetic strip on credit cards in the houses.

The suspect, Deandre Calhoun a 27 year old male, is believed to have purchased or attempted to purchase over \$40,000.00 worth of property from Kent County businesses and is believed to have made purchases with stolen credit card information in excess of \$100,000. He has been charged by larceny over \$20,000.00, unlawful use of a computer, and illegal use of a financial transaction device.

16-111081

On March 5, 2016, Kent County deputies made contact with a couple of subjects from the Detroit area at a gas station in Plainfield Township after they made some suspicious purchases of cigarettes with gift cards.

The subjects had several gift cards on them which had the magnetic strip reprogrammed with stolen credit card information. In addition, they had 18 cartons of cigarettes in their vehicle which are believed to have been purchased with the stolen credit card information. Deputies were able to track fraudulent purchases to at least two businesses located with Kent County.

One of the suspects, Willie Coger, a 21 year old male from Detroit, was lodged at the Kent County Jail and charged with possession of a fraudulent transaction device.

16-111254

On March 5, 2016, the Kent County Sheriff Department responded to the Meijer store in Cascade Township after receiving a call of several people smoking marijuana in the parking lot. Deputies were able to locate the vehicle and made contact with three subjects who were from the Detroit area.

During their investigation deputies located a small amount of marijuana. Deputies also became suspicious of possible credit card fraud after locating numerous gift cards, Visa Green Dot cards, 10 IPAD Airs, 4 boxes of shoes, a PS4, a hoverboard, and clothing.

It was determined the subjects had numerous stolen credit card numbers programmed on the back of gift cards and were using the stolen numbers to make their purchases. The value of the merchandise recovered in the vehicle was close to \$7,000.00 and the total credit card fraud the subjects are responsible is thought to be in the tens of thousands of dollars.

The suspects are 26 year olds Desean Porter and Arthur Jackson, along with 25 year old Jennifer Harris, all from the Detroit area, were lodged at the Kent County Jail and charged with possession of a fraudulent financial transaction device.

16-106272

In another incident of identity theft unrelated to the above credit card frauds, the Kent County Sheriff Department took a report on 2/6/16 where a female went to a Sprint store located in Bryon Township and used someone else's identification to open up an account and obtain four I-phone 6's valued at \$2,600.

On the same date, two other Sprint stores in the area had a similar female do the same thing at their locations. The suspect is described as a heavier set black female in her twenties.

Detectives have not been able to identify the female suspect in this case and are asking anyone that may recognize the person of interest in the attached photo to contact the Kent County Sheriff Department Detective Bureau at 632-6100 Ext. 6 or Silent Observer.