



***United States Attorney
District of New Jersey***

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**HUDSON COUNTY, NEW JERSEY MAN PLEADS GUILTY TO MAKING AND
SELLING COMPUTERIZED TEMPLATES FOR PRODUCING FAKE
IDENTIFICATION DOCUMENTS**

Templates Included Driver's Licenses for Various States and Federal Law Enforcement Credentials

TRENTON, N.J. – a Hudson County, New Jersey man pleaded guilty today a federal fraud charge arising from his creation of computerized templates to be used in the production of false identification documents, including federal law enforcement credentials, and selling them over the Internet, United States Attorney Paul J. Fishman announced.

Michael J. Sternquist, a/k/a "John Torchwood," 26, of Hoboken, New Jersey, entered his guilty plea to one count of fraud in connection with identification documents before United States District Judge Freda L. Wolfson in Trenton federal court. Judge Wolfson ordered the defendant remanded until sentencing, scheduled for October 8, 2010.

According to documents filed in this case and statements made in court:

Sternquist admitted that between September 2009 and February 12, 2010, he created computerized templates for false identification documents, including various state driver's licenses and federal law enforcement credentials, and sold them over the Internet. Sternquist further admitted that the templates he created included authentication features that issuing entities use to determine whether identification documents are counterfeit. He also provided purchasers with instructions on how to print the identification documents, including the authentication features – knowing that the people who bought the templates would use them to create false documents.

Taking into consideration a July 2007 identification document fraud conviction in the Southern District of Ohio, the charge to which Sternquist pleaded guilty carries a maximum potential penalty of 20 years in prison and a fine of \$250,000. Sternquist admitted today to violating the terms of his supervised release following his release from custody on the prior conviction. For that violation, Sternquist faces up to an additional two years in prison.

In determining the actual sentence, Judge Wolfson will consult the advisory United States Sentencing Guidelines, which provide appropriate sentencing ranges that take into account the severity and characteristics of the offense, the defendant's criminal history, if any, and other factors. The judge, however, is not bound by those guidelines in determining a sentence. Parole has been abolished in the federal system. Defendants who are given custodial

terms must serve nearly all that time.

U.S. Attorney Fishman credited the United States Secret Service, Trenton Resident Agency, under the direction of Special Agent in Charge Cynthia R. Wofford; the Social Security Administration's Office of Inspector General in Edison, under the direction of Special Agent in Charge Edward J. Ryan, the United States Postal Inspection Service in Newark, under the direction of Postal Inspector in Charge David Collins; the Fort Monmouth Police Department, under the direction of Chief of Police Adam S. Weinstein; and the Hoboken Police Department, under the direction of Chief of Police Anthony P. Falco Sr., with the investigation leading to today's guilty plea.

The government is represented by Assistant U.S. Attorney Eric M. Schweiker of the United States Attorney's Office Criminal Division in Trenton.

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Defense counsel: Andrea Bergman, Esq., Assistant Federal Public Defender, Trenton, N.J.