



Department of Justice

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Western District of Michigan

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THREE MORE INDIVIDUALS CAPTURED IN MICHIGAN COMMITTING CREDIT CARD FRAUD AT MEIJER ARE SENTENCED TO FEDERAL PRISON

Sentencing Follows 102-Month Prison Sentences Imposed Last Week on Zhou Chen, Kang He, and Shifu Lin

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. – TENG CHEN, a resident of New York, WEN ZHANG, a resident of New Jersey, and CHEE HONG LAM, a citizen of the People's Republic of China living in New York, each were sentenced to lengthy terms of federal prison following their convictions earlier this year for access device fraud, U.S. Attorney Donald A. Davis announced today. CHEN was sentenced to 97 months' imprisonment; ZHANG was sentenced to 79 months' imprisonment; and LAM was sentenced to 57 months' imprisonment. Additionally, CHEN and LAM were ordered to pay \$63,463.77 in restitution, and ZHANG was ordered to pay \$21,278.28 in restitution, to 18 financial institutions across the United States who suffered the financial loss as a result of the offense. The defendants were sentenced by Chief Judge Paul L. Maloney of the U.S. District Court in Kalamazoo, Michigan.

All three men were arrested by Kent County Sheriff Deputies on April 11, 2011, in Grandville, Michigan, after having been observed by Meijer store personnel using stolen credit card account numbers to purchase retail products, including baby formula and \$100 gift cards. At the time of their arrest, the defendants were in possession of several hundred containers of baby formula and gift cards purchased using stolen credit card account numbers. Defendants were found to have more than 700 stolen credit card account numbers ("access devices") in their possession, 102 of

which were encoded onto the magnetic strip on the back of plastic cards that could be used as a “cloned” credit card. A magnetic strip reader/writer device capable of encoding credit card account numbers onto the back of expired gift cards also was recovered from the vehicle. All three defendants pled guilty in July 2011 to one count of access device fraud.

In sentencing the defendants, Chief Judge Maloney also ordered the defendants to forfeit \$22,400 in fraudulently acquired gift cards and approximately \$387 in United States currency.

U.S. Attorney Davis stated: “In the last two weeks, prosecutions initiated by the United States Attorney’s office in Grand Rapids have resulted in sentences totaling nearly 45 years in prison for six men who engaged in a complex scheme to use other people’s credit card account numbers to brazenly steal tens of thousands of dollars in gift cards and merchandise. This type of financial fraud raises the cost of doing business, which is passed on to all consumers. Anyone contemplating using stolen credit card numbers to steal this holiday season is forewarned: you will be prosecuted to the full extent of the law and you face severe consequences, including a significant prison sentence.”

The case was prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Chris O’Connor and investigated by the U.S. Secret Service, Grand Rapids Field Office.

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