

Department of Justice

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Western District of New York

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
AUGUST 9, 2012
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BUFFALO WOMAN SENTENCED IN CREDIT CARD SCHEME

BUFFALO, N.Y. - U.S. Attorney William J. Hochul, Jr. announced today that Tynja Cloud, 31, of Buffalo, N.Y., who was convicted of knowingly using an unauthorized access device, was sentenced to 12 months in prison and two years supervised release by U.S. District Judge Richard J. Arcara. The defendant was also ordered to pay more than \$21,000 in restitution.

Assistant U.S. Attorney Russell T. Ippolito, Jr., who handled the case, stated that between June 28 and September 21, 2011, Cloud conspired with others to obtain credit cards from US Bank in the names of true individuals who resided outside the state of New York. The credit cards were obtained by using the identities of others and by applying for the credit cards through on-line bank applications. Cloud used the fraudulent credit cards at various retail stores in the Buffalo area.

Co-conspirator Michael Harris pleaded guilty to aggravated identity theft and is scheduled to be sentenced before Judge Arcara on August 22, 2012 at 1:00 p.m.

The plea is the culmination of an investigation by the U.S. Postal Inspection Service, under the direction of Inspector-in-Charge Robert Bethel.

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