

Department of Justice

United States Attorney William J. Hochul, Jr.
Western District of New York

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CONTACT: BARBARA BURNS
PHONE: (716) 843-5817
FAX: (716) 551-3051

ROCHESTER WOMAN IS SENTENCED IN CREDIT CARD SCAM CASE

ROCHESTER, N.Y.-- U.S. Attorney William J. Hochul, Jr. announced today that Shakeya Ellis, 22, of Rochester, N.Y., who was convicted of the unauthorized use of an access device, was sentenced to five years probation and ordered to pay \$3,149.53 in restitution by U.S. District Judge Charles J. Siragusa.

Assistant U.S. Attorney Tiffany H. Lee, who handled the case, stated that the defendant, along with others, participated in a scheme to obtain gift cards and merchandise by using falsely obtained credit card numbers. Some of the individuals had access to a 1-800 number allowing them to pose as retail merchants for Big Lots, Marathon Oil or Citgo. With this 1-800 number, the participants dialed in and verified credit card numbers which were fraudulently acquired. The participants then made purchases using credit card numbers. The defendant purchased many items using the falsely acquired numbers herself.

The sentencing is the culmination of an investigation on the part of Special Agents the United States Secret Service under the direction of Special Agent in Charge Tracy Gast, the New York State Police, the Irondequoit Police Department and Rochester Police Department.

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