

Department of Justice

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
MAY 18, 2012
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LOCKPORT COUPLE PLEADS GUILTY TO CREDIT CARD FRAUD

BUFFALO, N.Y. - U.S. Attorney William J. Hochul, Jr. announced today that Krista Dunkelberger, 27, and her husband, Joshua Dunkelberger, 28, both of Lockport, N.Y., have pleaded guilty to knowingly using an unauthorized access device before U.S. District Judge Richard J. Arcara.

Assistant U.S. Attorney Russell T. Ippolito, Jr., who is handling the prosecution, stated that between September 22, 2011 and January 6, 2012, the Dunkelbergers conspired with two others to defraud American Express ("AMEX") by obtaining 42 fraudulent AMEX credit cards in the names of thirty-seven individuals who live outside the state of New York. The defendants and one or more of their associates, posing as individuals who had AMEX credit cards, used the credit cards to make unauthorized ATM withdrawals at local area banks and unauthorized purchases at various retail stores in the Lockport area.

The Dunkelbergers and their associates illegally obtained cash and merchandise totaling approximately \$50,654.53.

Sentencing is scheduled for August 24, 2012 at 12:30 p.m. for Joshua Dunkelberger and 1:00 p.m. for Krista Dunkelberger, both before Judge Arcara.

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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