



## U.S. Department of Justice

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

June 14, 2007

### **FIVE CHARGED IN IDENTITY THEFT SCHEME TARGETING BANK CUSTOMERS**

PHILADELPHIA – United States Attorney Pat Meehan today announced the filing of an indictment<sup>1</sup> charging five individuals, including a car salesman and bank teller, with conspiracy, bank fraud, and aggravated identity theft.

According to the indictment, from March through May 2007, the defendants stole names, social security numbers, addresses, dates of birth and driver's license numbers of customers of Citizens Bank and Commerce Bank and then used fraudulent identification to cash counterfeit checks and make forged withdrawals from the bank accounts of those customers.

Defendant Damoon Hosseinzadeh worked as a salesman for New Concept Inc., a car dealership located at Norristown, Pennsylvania, where he had access to information of the dealership's customers, including names, social security numbers, driver's license numbers, dates of birth, and bank account information. Defendant Clarissa Gavin worked as a teller for Citizens Bank at a branch located at Wayne, Pennsylvania, where she also had access customer information.

Defendants Victor O'Connor, Rashin Owens and David Tunnell purchased this information from Gavin and Hosseinzadeh, which was then used to manufacture false photographic identifications in the names of customers of the banks using the picture of Tunnell on the identifications. Tunnell acted as a "check-runner," someone who posed as customers of the banks and cashed or attempted to cash fraudulent checks made payable to those customers or withdrew or attempted to withdraw money from those customers' accounts, totaling in excess of \$80,000.00.

"This case highlights the need for consumers to be vigilant about their account activity and to review bank and credit card statements regularly," said Meehan. "Thieves have figured out that they can, in effect, rob a bank without using a gun or ski mask."

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<sup>1</sup>An Indictment or Information is an accusation. A defendant is presumed innocent unless and until proven guilty.

INFORMATION REGARDING THE DEFENDANTS

NAME	ADDRESS	AGE OR DATE OF BIRTH
RASHIN OWENS	Philadelphia, PA	49
DAVID TUNNELL	Philadelphia, PA	29
VICTOR O'CONNOR	Philadelphia, PA	22
CLARISSA GAVIN	Conshocken, PA	22
DAMOON HOSSEINZADEH	Conshohocken, PA	26

If convicted of the conspiracy, each defendant faces a statutory maximum sentence of 5 years, a \$250,000 fine, and a \$100 special assessment per count. If convicted of bank fraud, each defendant faces a statutory maximum sentence of 30 years imprisonment, a \$1,000,000 fine, and a special assessment of \$100 for each count. If convicted of aggravated identity theft, each defendant faces a statutory mandatory sentence of 2 years imprisonment, to be served consecutively to any sentence imposed for the bank fraud or conspiracy.

The case was jointly investigated by the U.S. Postal Service and the U.S. Secret Service. The case will be prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney K.T. Newton.

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