



U.S. Department of Justice

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For Immediate Release

August 7, 2008

FIVE CHARGED WITH STEALING FROM HISTORICAL PARK VISITORS

PHILADELPHIA - Acting United States Attorney Laurie Magid today announced the unsealing of an Indictment¹ against Daniel Duncan, Devin Williams, Karen Battle, Ulonda Lewis and Sakisa Shelton, charging them with credit card fraud and aggravated identity theft. The indictment alleges that from July to November 2006, the defendants specialized in stealing credit cards from people visiting Valley Forge National Historical Park by breaking into cars and stealing wallets. The defendants then took immediately took the cards to nearby stores and used them. To maximize their fraudulent use of the stolen cards, the defendants sometimes split up so that different cards could be used in adjacent or nearby stores at the same time. In total, the defendants are charged with having fraudulently charged and attempted to charge goods valued in excess of \$28,000.

“National Parks, such as Valley Forge, are important cultural and recreational areas for residents and tourists, alike, and it is important that visitors have a sense of security,” said Magid. “This case also serves as an important reminder that there are people out there who will capitalize on any opportunity to violate another person’s trust. We just cannot be too vigilant about protecting our valuables.”

“The assistance received from the police departments in Upper Merion, Tredyffrin Township Police, Abington, and Philadelphia, was invaluable in bringing this case,” said Mike Caldwell, Superintendent of Valley Forge National Historical Park.

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

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INFORMATION REGARDING THE DEFENDANTS

NAME	ADDRESS	AGE
Daniel Duncan	Philadelphia	28
Devin Williams	Philadelphia	29
Karen Battle	Wyncote	34
Ulonda Lewis	Philadelphia	28
Sakisa Shelton	Philadelphia	32

If convicted, each defendant, faces a maximum possible sentence of 15 years imprisonment, a \$250,000 fine, and \$100 special assessment for each count of credit card fraud, and a mandatory consecutive term of two years in prison for aggravated identity theft.

The case was investigated by the United States Department of the Interior, National Park Service Rangers, and the Secret Service and is being prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Pamela Foa.

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