



## U.S. Department of Justice

United States Attorney

Eastern District of Pennsylvania

615 Chestnut Street

Suite 1250

Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19106-4476

(215) 861-8200

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### NEWS RELEASE

PHILADELPHIA - Rashin Owens, 31, of Philadelphia, was sentenced Monday to 96 months in prison for his role as middle man in a bank fraud and identity theft scheme. Owens was first indicted in June 2007 and indicted in a second case in January 2008. The following October, he pleaded guilty, in total, to two counts of conspiracy, three counts of bank fraud, and nine counts of aggravated identity theft. Owens' 'job' was to recruit individuals, such as bank employees and car dealership employees, who had access to personal and bank account information for a scheme that included stealing names, social security numbers, addresses, dates of birth, driver's license numbers, and bank account numbers for customers of banks, such as Citizens Bank and Commerce Bank. The stolen information was then used to cash counterfeit checks and to make forged withdrawals from the customers' bank accounts. Owens' participation in this scheme ran from July 2006 through May 2007. Owens purchased the Citizens Bank customer information through co-defendants Clarissa Gavin, Damoon Hosseinzadeh, Elton Harris, and Tamea Hill. Hill and Gavin worked as tellers for Citizens Bank. Hosseinzadeh was an employee of a car dealership in Norristown, Pennsylvania.

In addition to the prison sentence, U.S. District Court Judge Paul S. Diamond ordered Owens to pay restitution in the amount of \$76,785.

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

**UNITED STATES ATTORNEY'S OFFICE  
EASTERN DISTRICT, PENNSYLVANIA  
Suite 1250, 615 Chestnut Street  
Philadelphia, PA 19106**

**Contact: PATTY HARTMAN  
Media Contact  
215-861-8525**

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