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For Immediate Release

March 24, 2010

WYNCOTE WOMAN SENTENCED FOR STEALING FROM HISTORICAL PARK VISITORS

PHILADELPHIA - Karen Battle, 35, of Wyncote, PA, was sentenced today to three years in prison for credit card fraud and aggravated identity theft, announced United States Attorney Michael L. Levy. From July to November 2006, Battle and her co-defendants specialized in stealing credit cards from the cars of people visiting Valley Forge National Historical Park and other public recreational spaces. The defendants would immediately take the stolen cards to nearby stores and use 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 fraudulently charged and attempted to charge goods that resulted in losses between \$100,000 and \$200,000.

In addition to the prison term, U.S. District Court Judge Gene E.K. Pratter, who said the crimes were committed for “frivolous luxuries”, ordered Battle to pay restitution, joint and several, in the amount of \$27,061.38, a fine in the amount of \$2,000, complete three years of supervised release, and complete 300 hours of community service at a federal, state, or local park. An order of forfeiture is forthcoming.

Battle’s co-defendants - Daniel Duncan and Devin Williams - were sentenced to 30 months in prison and 51 months in prison, respectively.

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

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