

**IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA**

**UNITED STATES OF AMERICA** : **CRIMINAL NO. 12 -**  
**v.** : **DATE FILED: March 29, 2012**  
**MILHEM ABUALI** :  
: **VIOLATIONS:**  
: **7 U.S.C. § 2024(b)(1) (food stamp fraud -**  
: **5 counts )**

**INDICTMENT**

**COUNTS ONE THROUGH FIVE**

**THE GRAND JURY CHARGES THAT:**

At all times relevant to this indictment:

1. Best Way Supermarket, located at 5131 Chestnut Street, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, was a small grocery store that was authorized by the United States Department of Agriculture (hereinafter "USDA") to accept USDA food stamp benefits.
2. Defendant MILHEM ABUALI was employed at Best Way Supermarket.
3. The USDA administered the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, formerly known as the Federal Food Stamp Program (hereafter "the SNAP Program"). Retail food stores that were approved for participation in the SNAP Program were permitted to sell certain eligible food items in exchange for food stamp benefits. Food stamp benefits could not lawfully be exchanged for cash. 7 U.S.C. § 2024(b); 7 C.F.R. §§ 271.2, 278.2.
4. The SNAP Program was administered through grocery stores and supermarkets which had been approved as participants. The owners of approved grocery stores

and supermarkets were required to complete an application which included information about the store's anticipated annual sales.

5. In addition to providing an estimate of its anticipated annual sales, the grocery stores and supermarkets were required to acknowledge, in writing, their understanding of restrictions on the use of food nutrition benefits such as the prohibition against trading cash for food stamp benefits or permitting their employees to do so.

6. Before in or about 1998, persons deemed eligible to receive food stamp benefits were given a predetermined monthly dollar amount of food stamp coupons, which were only to be used to purchase food. After 1998, the food stamp coupons were replaced with a plastic card similar in size to a bank credit card.

7. In the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, the plastic card was known as a PaAccess Card. A benefits recipient was assigned a personal identification number and, each month, a predetermined dollar amount of monetary benefits was electronically embedded on the plastic card, which would then be used to purchase eligible food items at authorized grocery stores and supermarkets.

8. On or about the dates set forth below, in the Eastern District of Pennsylvania and elsewhere, defendant

**MILHEM ABUALI**

knowingly used, acquired and possessed, and aided and abetted the use, acquisition and possession of food stamp access card benefits in amounts greater than \$100 in a manner contrary to the federal statutes and regulations governing the SNAP Program, in that defendant ABUALI

purchased, at a discount, USDA food stamp benefits for cash from customers, in the approximate amounts set forth below, each acquisition and possession constituting a separate count.

<b>Count</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Total Amount of Food Stamp Transaction</b>	<b>Cash Paid for Food Stamp Benefits</b>
1	9/1/09	\$110.99	\$60.00
2	9/1/09	\$182.82	\$100.00
3	11/19/09	\$211.45	\$120.00
4	3/11/10	\$210.88	\$120.00
5	3/15/11	\$131.57	\$75.00

All in violation of Title 7, United States Code, Section 2024(b)(1) and Title 18, United States Code, Section 2.

**A TRUE BILL:**

---

**GRAND JURY FOREPERSON**

---

**ZANE DAVID MEMEGER**  
**United States Attorney**