

Department of Justice

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ORCHARD PARK MAN SENTENCED FOR WIRE FRAUD

BUFFALO, N.Y.-- U.S. Attorney William J. Hochul, Jr. announced today that Robert Jones, 27, of Orchard Park, N.Y., who was convicted of wire fraud, was sentenced to 37 months in prison and ordered to pay restitution in the amount of \$209,903.47 by U.S. District Court Judge Richard J. Arcara.

Assistant U.S. Attorney Edward H. White, who handled the case, stated that between November of 2009 and January of 2010, the defendant sent a series of emails to a victim indicating that he was purchasing a hotel and needed a short term loan to cover closing costs and to release a freeze on his bank account. Jones also indicated that if the victim loaned him the money, he would pay it back within three weeks. The victim provided two checks to Jones totaling \$50,800. The defendant did not purchase a hotel nor did he pay back the money to the victim.

Jones also fraudulently induced another victim to provide him with \$154,508.50 for the purchase of an auto repair shop and two fast food franchises, none of which were ever purchased. Furthermore, the defendant further admitted to fraudulently using social security numbers of other individuals to obtain services from several utility providers.

The sentencing is the culmination of an investigation on the part of Inspectors of the U.S. Postal Inspection Service, under the direction of Kevin Niland, Inspector in Charge, Special Agents of the Department of Homeland Security, Coast Guard Investigative Service, under the direction of Captain Robert Burchell, along with the Orchard Park Police Department, under the direction of Chief Andrew Benz.

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