

# Department of Justice

United States Attorney William J. Hochul, Jr.  
Western District of New York

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## **BUFFALO WOMAN PLEADS GUILTY IN CREDIT CARD SCHEME**

BUFFALO, N.Y. - U.S. Attorney William J. Hochul, Jr. announced today that Tynja Cloud, 31, of Buffalo, N.Y., pleaded guilty to knowingly using an unauthorized access device before U.S. District Judge Richard J. Arcara. The charge carries a maximum penalty of 10 years in prison, a fine of \$250,000 or both.

Assistant U.S. Attorney Russell T. Ippolito, Jr., who is handling the case, stated that between June 28 and September 21, 2011, Cloud conspired with others to obtain credit cards from US Bank in the names of true individuals who resided outside the state of New York. The credit cards were obtained by using the identities of others and by applying for the credit cards through on-line bank applications. Cloud used the fraudulent credit cards at various retail stores in the Buffalo area.

One of Cloud's purchases included furniture which she arranged to be delivered to her home. It was actually Postal Inspectors with the United States Postal Inspection Service, posing as delivery men, who showed up at the defendant's home on September 21, 2011. Cloud signed for the furniture using the name of an individual who had a credit card with US Bank. A search warrant was immediately executed and postal inspectors discovered additional items purchased by Cloud. The defendant illegally obtained merchandise totaling \$29,083.11.

The plea is the culmination of an investigation by the U.S. Postal Inspection Service, under the direction of Inspector-in-Charge Robert Bethel.

Sentencing is scheduled for July 30, 2012 at 12:30 p.m. before Judge Arcara.

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