

JERSEY CITY POLICE DEPT SUPPLEMENTARY INVESTIGATION REPORT

JERSEY CITY POLICE DEPT District: NORTH		2A. Mun. Code 0906	3A. Phone Number and Ext. 201-547-5350	19. Prosecutor's Case No.	20. Department File No. 08-011022	<input type="checkbox"/> Co-op <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original
5. Crime / Incident Credit Card Theft Intent to Compelte Card w/o Consent Possession of Forgery Devices Forgery and Related Offenses * See attached for all crimes		5A. New Crime / Incident		21A. Victim's name / New Address if changed STATE OF NJ JERSEY CITY NJ (US)		
6A. New N.J. Status		7A. Date of Crime Date from Date to 4/12/2008 00:00		ADDITIONAL VALUE STOLEN PROPERTY		40A. Currency 41A. Jewelry 42A. Furs 43. Clothing 44. Auto 45. Miscellaneous
46A. Additional Stolen Property Value		47A. Additional Recovered Property Value		48A. Teletype Alarm / GA#		49A. Additional Technical Services 50A. Technician and Agency
51A. Weather UNKNOWN		52A. Evidence Bag No.		53A.		54. Cross Reference File No.
57A. Chem. Lab. No.		58A. Ballistics Lab. No.		59A. MV Summons No.		60A.
61. No Arrested 3		61A. New Arrested		62A. Adult		63A. Juvenile
				65A. Current Case Status INVESTIGATION		66A. 67A.
68. Name		Address of Person(s) Arrested/Summoned		Phone Number	69. Age	70. Sex 71. Race 72. DOB
33. Vehicle		34. Year	35. Make/Model		36. Body Type	37. Color 38. Registration # and State 39. VIN Number or Identification
73. Narrative <p>On 04/12/08 u/s detective was informed by Sgt. Carrattini that he had an actor at the north district who was willing to give a charge statement concerning several charges involving fraudulent uses of credit cards. U/s detective along with Detective Armstrong did speak with the actor William Cortez who agreed to give a formal charge statement.</p> <p>U/s detective along with Detective Armstrong and one of the arresting officers PO Thomas Jones did start a video and audio statement with the actor William Cortez. After again being advised of his Rights by Detective Armstrong Mr. Cortez did sign and waive his rights. Mr. Cortez started the statement by describing his part on the making of fraudulent credit cards. Mr. Cortez stated that he would use an encoder and laptop computer to cook the back of credit cards. Mr. Cortez was asked what he meant by cook and he stated that it is a term he uses when he encodes the magnetic strip on the back of credit cards with stolen card numbers that are obtained through skimming and several different methods. Mr. Cortez states that he is sent several times a week by e-mail stolen credit card numbers from Abes partner who he knows as Frank. Frank is known to travel and live in different states also spending a lot of time in Atlanta , Georgia. (After later questioning by the u/s and detectives from the prosecutors office Frank may be one Francisco Lake) several of the emails were recovered by the arresting officers after a consent to search was done at the actors apartment where numerous skimmer's , various amounts of credit cards along with many other various items were recovered and placed into evidence(For a complete list of recovered items see initial investigation report.</p> <p>Mr. Cortez than started to describe several of the people who were involved in the operation. Mr. Cortez stated that he mainly worked for a person named Abe Berger who</p>						
73A.						
74A. Type the Rank, Name and Badge # of Reporting Officer(s) FURCH, S H - INVESTIGATOR [D0722]			75A.	76A. Page Page 1 of 3	77A. Date of Report 04/12/2008 18:22	78A. TRU/DRU I.D. FURCH, S H

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<p>owns a store in the diamond district possibly named the Exchange which was located on 47th St. possibly between 5th and 6th st. in New York City. Mr. Cortez stated that Abe lives in Brooklyn and he describes him as a Jewish male who wears a Yamika and is approx. 5 ft 9 inches tall and is between 50 and 55 years of age. Mr. Cortez stated that he met Abe when he was around 18 years of age and he started out as a personal driver for Abe until Abe taught him how to encode the credit cards. Mr. Cortez stated that he would get blank credit cards from either Abe or another person who he knows as Iris who picks up the blank cards from Abes personal driver who he knows as Vinny.</p> <p>Mr. Cortez went on to describe a female who he knows as Iris by stating that she is the second person who is used in making the fraudulent cards. Mr. Cortez stated that Iris has equipment to put the printing on the front of the credit cards. He believes this machine is called an Eltron machine and he knows Iris to also make phony Drivers Licenses for several different states using this machine. Iris is described as an hispanic female approx. 50 years old with brown hair and she lives in an older white house on the right side of Stevens Ave. off of Ocean ave. in Jersey city with her children. Iris is known to drive an older model black maxima.</p> <p>Mr. Cortez stated that a third person was used to make the front side of the credit cards and he would later remember the name of this person when being interviewed by the detectives from the prosecutors office. Mr. Cortez went on to further describe how after the credit cards were finished he would deliver them to people he called workers who he would meet on the street and sometimes at the Dunkin donuts on Griffith st. and Central Ave. Mr. Cortez stated that these workers would use the cards to buy numerous types of items ranging from gift cards at supermarkets to expensive electronics and Rolex watches. The items were then taken to Abe and he would give the workers 18% of the retail value of the items.</p> <p>Mr. Cortez further stated that one of the skimmer's recovered at his apartment had to be delivered on 4/13/08 to a person who he knows as Carlos who works at a shell gas station on the Eastbound side of Route 3 in Secaucus, Nj. Mr. Cortez stated that he has never met Carlos but he was going to contact him with a number which was in his cell phone. Mr. Cortez stated that he would usually leave the skimmer for two weeks at a location before retrieving it and obtaining the stolen numbers. Mr. Cortez informed us that they only used Visa and Mastercard numbers with the skimmer because they could not be traced as easy as American Express cards. Mr. Cortez further stated that he would not use the skimmer again at the same location for at least two weeks.</p> <p>Mr. Cortez informed the u/s that when business was busy he sometimes made 300 to 400 hundred credit cards daily. He stated that he was now making up to 100 cards two or three times a week. Mr. Cortez stated that he would be paid 5 dollars a card by Abe Berger.</p> <p>After Mr Cortez explained his role in the making of the fraudulent credit cards he informed the u/s and Detective Armstrong that he had told the arresting officers that he was involved in some kind of voting fraud in Jersey City and he would also like to speak about that during the interview. Mr. Cortez started by stating that he and at least six males were asked to vote for Steve Fulop using different names at several different polling places when he ran for councilman 2 or three years ago. Mr. Cortez stated that he was asked by his long time friend Luis Torres. Mr. Cortez stated that on the day of the election himself and the following people were picked up in a white van and given a list of names to use to vote for Steve Fulop as they were driven to various polling places in the downtown area. Mr. Cortez stated that he personally voted using eight different names. The names of the males he was able to remember who also voted under different names were Luis Torres, Charlie Torres, Joseph Romeo, Eddie Torres and Victor Reyes. Mr. Cortez better clarified the names of these individuals during the taped audio statement with the detectives of the Prosector's Office. Mr. Cortez stated that these individuals were given a 1,000 dollar check that was given to Luis Torres who cashed the checks in his wife's bank account and the individuals were given the cash by Luis Torres. Mr. Cortez stated that these checks were given to Luis by Charlie and Tom who both worked for the Fulop campaign. Mr. Cortez also stated that Charlie would go to the polling places to help out in case any of the individuals would be challenged from voting.</p> <p>Mr. Cortez additionally added that if he could talk with someone from the narcotics squad he had information involving some drug locations in the Newark and Jersey City areas.</p> <p>North Detective Commander Lt. Sprague did respond to the North District and did contact the chief of Detectives at the Hudson County Prosecutors Office. Detective Vincent Bonaccolta did respond to the north district. U/s Detective along with PO Jones did have N303 transport Mr. Cortez to the Hudson County Prosecutors Office to be interviewed by Det. Bonaccolta and Detective Michael Signorile from the prosecutors Special Investigations</p>				
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District: NORTH	0906			08-011022

Unit. Detective Signorile and Bonaccolta did take a formal audio statement from Mr. Cortez concerning the fraudulent credit card use and the voter fraud. Detective Bonaccolta stated that he was the liaison for the Prosecutors Office to the Secret Service and he would be making those necessary notifications when needed. U/s Detective responded back to the North District to complete necessary reports. PO Jones and Detective Bonaccorte did later transport Mr. Bonnacorte back to the North District to be processed to BCI and the County.

5. Crime / Incident cont.

Credit Card Theft	(1) 2C:21-6c
Intent to Compelte Card w/o Consent	(1) 2C:21-6f
Possession of Forgery Devices	(1) 2C:21-1c
Forgery and Related Offenses	(1) 2C:21-1
Recelving Stolen Property	(1) 2C:20-7

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