



NEWS RELEASE

TOWNSHIP OF OCEAN POLICE

SUBJECT: Four Arrested following Credit Card Theft and Identity Theft investigation.

DATE/TIME: 11-7-11 2008 hours

LOCATION: Sears, 2341 Hwy. 66 Ocean NJ (Seaview Square)

OFFICERS INVOLVED: Patrolman Steven Walker, Detective James Loizos

ACCUSED: **Jean-Raymond Colassaint, age 21, Brooklyn, NY**
Emmanuel LaForest, age 22, Brooklyn, NY
Loriza Hiralal, age 22, Brooklyn, NY
Michelle Mendonca, age 25, Brooklyn, NY

NARRATIVE

On November 7, 2011 at approximately 2008 hours, Patrolman Steven Walker was on patrol in the area of the Seaview Square Mall when he observed a suspicious silver Toyota parked near the vacant Value City department store. Ptl. Walker made contact with the two occupants of the vehicle and both suspects provided him with a false name. The occupants were later identified as Jean-Raymond Colassaint and Emmanuel LaForest. Colassaint was also found to be in possession of numerous fraudulent driver licenses from Pennsylvania and Virginia as well as documents containing the personal information of persons believed to be the victims of identity theft. Both subjects were placed under arrest.

While officers were still at the scene investigating, two females, Loriza Hiralal and Michelle Mendonca, arrived at the car and reported that they had traveled to the mall with Colassaint and LaForest. After speaking with the women, Ptl. Walker learned that Mendonca had been provided with a false Pennsylvania driver license by LaForest. Mendonca and Hiralal entered the Sears in Ocean Twp. and Mendonca impersonated the identity theft victim to gain access to a Sears credit card account belonging to an unknowing victim of identity theft. Mendonca attempted to purchase electronics at the Ocean Twp. Sears, but the transaction was not completed because the account was over the credit limit. A search of the vehicle revealed various electronic merchandise, including four digital cameras, two Sony Playstation 3 video games systems, two Nintendo handheld video game systems, and a Sony PSP handheld video

game system. Both Mendonca and Hiralal were placed under arrest. Walker was assisted with the arrests by Ptl. Kevin Redmond and Ptl. Greg Martone. All four suspects were transported to the Ocean Twp. Police Department for processing.

A follow up investigation by Det. Loizos determined that the property found in the vehicle had been fraudulently obtained by the suspects utilizing false identification and personal information stolen from unknowing victims to gain access to charge accounts in retail stores in Staten Island, Eatontown, and other locations in Monmouth County. The investigation into the thefts from the other retail stores and to determine how the victims' personal information was obtained by the suspects is ongoing.

All four suspects were charged with receiving stolen property and conspiracy to commit credit card theft, and conspiracy to commit identity theft. LaForest was also charged with providing false information. Colassaint was also charged with providing false information and possession of fraudulent identification. All four suspects were released on a complaint summons pending a future court date.

PREPARED BY: Detective Sergeant Thomas Burke

DATE: 11/09/11