



Office of the District Attorney

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## **Man Pleads Guilty to Role in Counterfeit Credit Card Ring**



**ALBANY, NY** – District Attorney P. David Soares announced today that PATRICK WARD, 22, of Freeport, NY, pleaded guilty to (1) Count of Criminal Possession of Forgery Devices, a Class “D” felony, and (1) Count of Criminal Possession of a Forged Instrument in the 2nd Degree, a class “D” felony, before the Hon. Stephen W. Herrick on December 20, 2012 in Albany County Court.

In accordance with the plea agreement, WARD will face 2 to 6 years in state prison on each count, consecutive, for a total sentence of 4 to 12 years when sentenced in February.

WARD was one of four arrested by Colonie Police for conducting a counterfeit credit card ring. The group used identities to create fake credit cards which they used at various Albany stores during a four day period in January 2011. The total loss is valued at approximately \$20,000. When arrested at La Quinta Inn in Colonie they allegedly possessed multiple fraudulent cards and a "Reader/Writer" skimming device which allows the user to load data on to a blank credit card.

“Albany County has a robust retail community that offenders have and continue to target. Cashiers are the first line of defense. As we move forward in this shopping season, I encourage customers and retail personnel to be vigilant,” said DA Soares.

Two other defendants, ELOISE HALL and DESHANAE JONES have pleaded to felonies previously. The fourth, RESEAN BLOUNT, awaits trial.

The case was handled by Financial Crimes Unit Bureau Chief Assistant District Attorney Christopher Baynes.

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*ALL PARTIES ARE INNOCENT UNTIL PROVEN GUILTY*