



Office of the District Attorney
P. David Soares
6 Lodge Street
Albany, New York 12207
(518) 487-5460
(518) 487-5093 FAX

CONTACT: CECILIA WALSH, (518) 275-4710
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: TUESDAY, JANUARY 7, 2014

Fourth Co-Defendant Sentenced to 3 to 6 Years in State Prison in Counterfeit Credit Card Scheme



The counterfeit credit cards and fake identification cards attributed to Reginal Francois

ALBANY, NY – District Attorney P. David Soares announced today that REGINAL FRANCOIS, 22, of New York City, was sentenced to 3 to 6 years in State Prison before the Honorable Stephen Herrick in Albany County Court this morning.

On November 20, 2013, FRANCOIS pleaded guilty to (5) Counts of Criminal Possession of a Forged Instrument in the Second Degree, a Class D Felony.

On September 11, 2012, FRANCOIS, along with co-defendants PATRICK ROONEY, 22, JANAY SPENCER, 22, and MALCOLM BUTLER, 23, all from New York City, traveled in a vehicle driven by the defendant from New York City to Albany with the intent of purchasing merchandise using counterfeit credit cards.

As FRANCOIS exited Interstate 90 in the Town of Guilderland, a New York State Trooper pulled the vehicle over for a traffic violation on the exit ramp leading towards Crossgates Mall.

Upon approaching the vehicle, the Trooper discovered that FRANCOIS was not licensed to operate a motor vehicle in New York State. A search of the vehicle revealed FRANCOIS to be in possession of numerous counterfeit credit cards as well as fake identification cards.

JANAY SPENCER was sentenced to 9 months in the Albany County Correctional Facility before the Honorable Stephen Herrick in Albany County Court on April 16, 2013. On February 6, 2013, SPENCER pleaded guilty to (1) Count of Criminal Possession of a Forged Instrument in the Second Degree, a Class D Felony.

PATRICK ROONEY was sentenced to 1 to 3 years in State Prison on April 18, 2013. On February 6, 2013, ROONEY pleaded guilty to (1) Count of Criminal Possession of a Forged Instrument in the Second Degree, a Class D Felony, before the Honorable Stephen Herrick in Albany County Court.

MALCOLM BUTLER was sentenced to 1 to 3 years in State Prison on April 1, 2013. On February 11, 2013, BUTLER pleaded guilty to (1) Count of Criminal Possession of a Forged Instrument in the Second Degree, a Class D Felony, before the Honorable Stephen Herrick in Albany County Court.

“These four co-defendants came to Albany County with the intention of using counterfeit credit cards at multiple local businesses. Instead, they were stopped by a vigilant New York State Police Trooper who prevented the co-defendants from continuing on their criminal journey. The resolution of this case should serve as a warning to potential counterfeiters looking to exploit the economy of Albany County that will you be held accountable for your actions,” commented District Attorney Soares.

Assistant District Attorney Benjamin Clark of the Financial Crimes Bureau handled the prosecution of these cases.

For more information please contact Cecilia Walsh (518) 275-4710.

###