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## Guilty Plea in Counterfeit Credit Card Scheme



**ALBANY, NY** – District Attorney P. David Soares announced today that **REGINAL FRANCOIS**, 22, of New York City, pleaded guilty to (5) Counts of Criminal Possession of a Forged Instrument in the Second Degree, a Class D Felony, before the Honorable Stephen Herrick in Albany County Court yesterday morning.

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 ID's.

FRANCOIS faces up to 3 ½ to 7 years in State Prison when sentenced on January 7, 2014.

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.

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.

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