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PRESS RELEASE

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D.A. Donovan, NYPD take down ring of ID scammers who targeted more than 80 patients from a South Shore doctor's office

****Ringleaders got engaged during lavish trip to Disney World funded with stolen monies****

STATEN ISLAND, NY – Richmond County District Attorney Daniel M. Donovan, Jr. and NYPD Commissioner Raymond Kelly today announced the indictments and arrests of one Staten Islander and four Bronx residents on charges that include enterprise corruption, identity theft, falsifying business records, criminal possession of stolen property, grand larceny and grand larceny as a hate crime, among other charges, for stealing patient information from a Staten Island doctor's office and using the stolen data to create new debit cards and make cash withdrawals against the victim's accounts, as well as filing false income tax returns in order to steal refunds from the victims and the Internal Revenue Service.

The indictment details a pattern of 64 criminal acts underlying the Enterprise Corruption and is the result of a year-long investigation by the Investigations Bureau of the Richmond County District Attorney's Office and the NYPD.

Defendants AMANDA "Meme Zee" ZIEMINSKI, of Staten Island, and CLYDE "C-Money CEO" FORTEAU, of The Bronx, used the money obtained through their series of scams to buy expensive tickets for a 2012 NBA Eastern Conference finals game in Boston, vacation in the Dominican Republic and fly to Disney World in Florida, where the two got engaged at Cinderella's castle.

"But make no mistake, Amanda Zieminski is no Cinderella and Clyde Forteau is far from Prince Charming. However, this story does have a fairytale ending – for law enforcement. These two defendants and their accomplices preyed on unsuspecting victims and used stolen monies to pay for luxuries to which they were not entitled. The hard work of my Investigations Bureau and the NYPD, as well as the other law enforcement agencies that assisted, has paid off with these arrests," said District Attorney Daniel M. Donovan, Jr. "If you commit a crime and are brazen enough to post online pictures of yourself enjoying the ill-gotten fruits of your criminal endeavors, we will most certainly find you, arrest you and prosecute you to the fullest extent of the law."

Police Commissioner Raymond W. Kelly said: "It's unconscionable that an individual entrusted with providing healthcare betrayed her profession and preyed on unsuspecting patients, some of whom were in

their nineties and reliant on life savings that the subjects in this case siphoned into accounts created for personal avarice. It's equally despicable that the defendants claimed to be Hurricane Sandy victims in order to receive ATM cards at their Bronx addresses. I commend the NYPD Financial Crimes Task Force, and the original precinct case detective, Greg Siciliano, who recognized the commonalities in these grand larcenies and tracked down those responsible, as well as their counterparts in District Attorney Donovan's office for bringing these criminals to justice and beginning the process of returning monies to the victims."

"The theft of someone's identity is a personal crime and speaks to the very essence of how we are perceived and handle our day-to-day business. When we innocently place our personal information in the care of someone in the course of doing something as benign as going to the doctor, or in any other fashion, we place our trust in the fact this information will be protected. In this case that did not happen. These individuals allegedly stole the victim's identities and abused the personal financial stability of each person touched by this crime. This was a crime of greed and opportunity," said Inspector-In-Charge Philip R. Bartlett of the US Postal Inspection Service. "But make no mistake, Postal Inspectors along with their law enforcement partners, will vigorously pursue and bring to justice those individuals who utilize the US Mail for illegal purposes."

"This investigation demonstrates the seriousness with which the Social Security Administration's, Office of the Inspector General SSA/OIG, responds to allegations of fraud against our agency and recipients. SSA/OIG is not only committed to protecting the Social Security trust fund and the integrity of the program, but to anyone who by means of deceit fraudulently obtains government funds deemed for the most vulnerable in our society," said Edward J. Ryan, Special Agent in Charge, Office of the Inspector General, Office of Investigation, Social Security Administration. "This successful investigation was possible only through the committed efforts of the law enforcement agencies involved."

"We must continue to defend the identities of Medicare recipients from identity theft," said Tom O'Donnell, Special Agent in Charge, Office of Inspector General, Department of Health and Human Services, New York region. "Yesterday's arrests of organized criminals is a step in the right direction in protecting the elderly from this malicious crime."

ZIEMINSKI, one of the ringleaders of the crew, was hired in August 2004 at the office of South Shore Physicians. In or around 2008, the doctor who owned the business began receiving reports from patients that their bank accounts had been compromised. He immediately took measures to safeguard patient information and diligently began working closely with law enforcement to determine the source of the identity theft. (It should be noted that in December 2012, the owner fired ZIEMINSKI for inflating her reported hours, thereby stealing money paid for hours she did not, in fact, work.)

In June 2012, the 123rd Precinct Detective Squad was assigned a case in which a victim's TD Bank account address was changed from his Staten Island residence to a location in The Bronx, and a new debit card was requested. Between June 4 and June 8, 2012, there was unauthorized activity on the account totaling \$24,955.42. The activity included gasoline purchases, fund transfers, U.S. Post Office money order purchases, ATM cash withdrawals and a StubHub.com purchase for three front-row tickets to game six of the NBA Eastern Conference Finals at the Boston Garden between the Boston Celtics and Miami Heat on June 7, 2012.

The StubHub transaction had been handled online, as well as printed online, and information for the transaction was linked back to 255 East 203rd St., The Bronx, NY. Detectives conferred with TD Bank and learned it was investigating a pattern in which patients who had written checks to South Shore Physicians had their personal information compromised and their accounts changed, or attempted to be changed, to addresses in The Bronx.

Further investigation identified CLYDE FORTEAU as one of the inhabitants of 255 East 203rd St., The Bronx, NY, and a Google search revealed that he and ZIEMINSKI had both gone to New York City College of Technology. They were honored as student athletes for the 2005-2006 season, according to an online college news article. During the course of investigation, detectives doing surveillance on FORTEAU's Bronx address observed ZIEMINSKI visit the location.

A review of FORTEAU's publicly accessible Facebook page showed him and his brother, JEROME "It's Holly" FORTEAU, pictured at the Boston Garden for the playoff game between the Celtics and Heat. They are seated in front of then-New England Patriots players Aaron Hernandez and Wes Welker.

The Facebook page for JEROME FORTEAU has publicly accessible pictures that show the tickets, which were paid for with the victim's stolen credit card.

The Forteau brothers are in an aspiring rap group called "Yung Squad" and the group's publicly accessible Facebook page has pictures of front-row, courtside tickets they purchased for a Nets basketball game, as well as them sitting field level for a Jets football game. Expensive seats that were all paid for with stolen money.

The Richmond County District Attorney's Office and the NYPD (123rd Precinct, 121st Precinct, Richmond County District Attorney's Detective Squad, Special Frauds Squad and TARU) eventually obtained eavesdropping warrants for Clyde and Amanda's cellphones. It was then discovered that CLYDE FORTEAU was targeting patients he thought were elderly and using their personal information to file false tax returns in their names using their Social Security numbers, and having the refunds sent to two internet banks, NetSpend and The Bancorp Bank. (It should be noted that both lending institutions cooperated with this investigation.) CLYDE FORTEAU would sometimes pose as a victim of Hurricane Sandy to explain to bank reps why he had relocated. He also rerouted Social Security payments from the legitimate accounts of his elderly victims to these internet banks.

CLYDE FORTEAU would then link credit cards to these internet bank accounts and have the cards delivered to maildrops around the Bronx. CLYDE FORTEAU had couriers, including ABDUL "Chips" YOUSEF, pick up the credit cards and deliver them to him or his brother, JEROME FORTEAU. CARMEN RIVERA served as a "dropper" who collected stolen credit cards and delivered them to YOUSEF.

While the wiretap investigation was under way, CLYDE FORTEAU and ZIEMINSKI used stolen money to vacation in the Dominican Republic.

After the wiretap was concluded, CLYDE FORTEAU flew ZIEMINSKI to Walt Disney World in Florida and proposed at Cinderella's castle. This was all paid for with stolen monies. Pictures from this lavish trip were posted online on their respective, publicly accessible Facebook pages.

During yesterday's arrests, detectives found more than 50 credit cards – including the credit card used to buy NBA Eastern Conference Final tickets and patient information – and more than 20 stolen or forged drivers' licenses inside the BMW 7 series used by CLYDE and JEROME FORTEAU.

Also, yesterday, detectives recovered the jacket and hat that CLYDE FORTEAU used to make ATM withdrawals against the illegal bank accounts. It was stashed inside the trunk of AMANDA ZIEMINSKI's vehicle.

"On July 1, CLYDE FORTEAU stated on Facebook that he 'ain't worried about nuthin.' Well he and his co-defendants should be worried, because these are very serious felony charges. They committed a variety of financial crimes and identity theft against many victims, most of whom were seniors," noted DA Donovan.

“As for AMANDA ZIEMINSKI, she stated on Facebook on June 28 that, ‘Seeing so many homeless people on my way to work makes me realize how blessed I am.’ She failed to mention that the luxuries in her so-called ‘blessed’ life were illegally obtained and now she will have to answer for her role in this complex scam,” the DA concluded.

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Assistant District Attorney David Frey, Deputy Chief of the Investigations Bureau, is handling the prosecution of the case, under the supervision of Assistant District Attorney Amy Legow, Chief of the Investigations Bureau.

The lead investigator on the case was NYPD Det. Gregory Siciliano of the NYPD 121st Precinct Detective Squad, under the supervision of Sgt. Michael Cafero, NYPD 121st Precinct Detective Squad, and Inspector Michael Baldassano, Detective Bureau of Staten Island.

The Field Team was comprised of members of the NYPD Financial Crimes Task Force, including Det. Eric Weshner and Det. Dante Cavallo, under the supervision of Sgt. Kevin Farrell and Inspector Gregory Antonsen.

The NYPD Asset Forfeiture Team consisted of Det. Raymond Phillips under the supervision of Lt. Charles Scalzo.

Also aiding in the investigation was NYPD TARU and the Richmond County District Attorney’s Office Detective Squad.

Further assisting with the case were U.S. Postal Inspector Matthew Roman and Special Agent Gilberto Camilo of the Social Security Administration, Office of the Inspector General, Office of Investigation.

Also, credit is to be given to the Department of Health and Human Services, Office of Inspector General, New York region.

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The charges contained in the indictments are merely allegations, and the defendants are presumed innocent unless and until proven guilty.

AMANDA ZIEMINSKI (D.O.B. 8/10/86)

Staten Island, NY

Charges:

- Enterprise Corruption, a class B felony, 1 count
- Falsifying Business Records in the First Degree, a class E felony, 26 counts
- Criminal Possession of Stolen Property in the Fourth Degree, a class E felony, 16 counts
- Grand Larceny in the Fourth Degree, a class E felony, 2 counts
- Grand Larceny in the Third Degree, a class D felony, 9 counts
- Attempted Criminal Possession of Stolen Property in the Fourth Degree, a class A misdemeanor, 3 counts
- Attempted Grand Larceny in the Third Degree, class E felony, 5 counts
- Scheme to Defraud in the First Degree, a class E felony, 2 counts
- Grand Larceny in the Second Degree, a class C felony, 1 count
- Identity Theft in the First Degree, a class D felony, 1 count

CLYDE FORTEAU (D.O.B. 3/14/84)

Bronx NY

Charges:

- Enterprise Corruption, a class B felony, 1 count
- Falsifying Business Records in the First Degree, a class E felony, 26 counts
- Criminal Possession of Stolen Property in the Fourth Degree, a class E felony, 16 counts
- Grand Larceny in the Fourth Degree, a class E felony, 2 counts
- Grand Larceny in the Third Degree, a class D felony, 9 counts
- Attempted Criminal Possession of Stolen Property in the Fourth Degree, a class A misdemeanor, 3 counts
- Attempted Grand Larceny in the Third Degree, a class E felony, 5 counts
- Scheme to Defraud in the First Degree, a class E felony, 2 counts
- Grand Larceny in the Second Degree, a class C felony, 1 count
- Identity Theft in the First Degree, a class D felony, 1 count
- Grand Larceny in the Third Degree as a Hate Crime, a class C felony, 2 counts

JEROME FORTEAU (D.O.B. 2/18/88)

Bronx, NY

Charges:

- Enterprise Corruption, a class B felony, 1 count
- Criminal Possession of Stolen Property in the Fourth Degree, a class E felony, 6 counts
- Grand Larceny in the Fourth Degree, a class E felony, 1 count
- Grand Larceny in the Third Degree, a class D felony, 4 counts
- Attempted Grand Larceny in the Third Degree, a class E felony, 1 count
- Scheme to Defraud in the First Degree, a class E felony, 2 counts
- Grand Larceny in the Second Degree, a class C felony, 1 count
- Identity Theft in the First Degree, a class D felony, 1 count

ABDUL YOUSEF (D.O.B. 9/6/87)

Bronx, NY

Charges:

- Enterprise Corruption, a class B felony, 1 count
- Criminal Possession of Stolen Property in the Fourth Degree, a class E felony, 4 counts
- Grand Larceny in the Fourth Degree, a class E felony, 2 counts
- Grand Larceny in the Third Degree, a class D felony, 2 counts
- Attempted Grand Larceny in the Third Degree, a class E felony, 1 count
- Scheme to Defraud in the First Degree, a class E felony, 2 counts
- Identity Theft in the First Degree, a class D felony, 1 count

CARMEN RIVERA (D.O.B. 3/25/61)

Bronx, NY

Charges:

- Identity Theft in the First Degree, a class D felony, 1 count