



For Immediate Release: May 26, 2016

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Harrisonburg Police Arrest Two in Credit Card Scheme

On March 5, 2016 the Harrisonburg Police Department received a report that individuals had left Martin's on East Market Street after refusing to provide identification when they attempted to purchase items with various seemingly suspicious charge cards. Store personnel reported the suspicious behavior of the two suspects to the Harrisonburg Police Department and provided a description of the vehicle in which they had fled the area. Soon thereafter an officer spotted the vehicle on East Market Street and conducted a traffic stop on the car. The occupants of the vehicle were Steven Quallo, 25, of Springfield Garden, NY, and Shennel Neal, 26, of Binghamton, NY.

Initial investigation revealed that inside the car and on the persons of the Quallo and Neal were approximately 50 prepaid Visa cards. Many of the card numbers on the cards did not match the subsequent card numbers on the magnetic strips of the cards. A common fraudulent scheme involves "cloning" cards by placing a stolen credit card number on the magnetic strip of other cards and thereby making charges to another person's account. Quallo and Neal were each eventually charged with numerous fraud-related offenses. Quallo was held without bond at the Rockingham Regional Jail and Neal was released from the jail on a secured bond.

Follow-up investigation into the stolen account numbers indicated that credit cards from at least 10 separate banks had been compromised in a series of transactions related to this incident. These transactions include those mentioned above as well as others that occurred outside of the Harrisonburg area, including jurisdictions outside of Virginia. Numerous fraudulent transactions were completed in this scheme and items purchased or attempted to have been purchased included alcohol, cigarettes, and gift cards, among other items. The victims of the compromised accounts did not appear to be residents of Harrisonburg or the surrounding area.

On May 17, 2016, 37 additional warrants were obtained for Steven Quallo, which were subsequently served at the jail. 46 additional charges were obtained for Shennel Neal, and these charges are still outstanding at this time. Criminal charges related to this incident include money laundering, identity theft, credit card theft, credit card forgery, and credit card theft.