News Release

U.S. Department of Justice

United States Attorney
Northern District of Ohio

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William J. Edwards, Acting United States Attorney for the Northern District of Ohio, announced that U.S. District Judge Patricia A. Gaughan has sentenced four individuals in connection with their recent convictions on charges of fraud in connection with access devices.

Michael Mills, Jr. was sentenced to 24 months in prison, followed by 3 years of supervised release. Michael Mills was also ordered to pay $269,000.00 in restitution, and a $200 special assessment.

Antonio Mills was sentenced to 19 months in prison, followed by 3 years supervised release. Antonio Mills was also ordered to pay restitution in the amount of $174,156, and a $100 special assessment.

Bryan Cartwright was sentenced to 12 months and one day in prison, followed by 3 years supervised release. Cartwright was also ordered to pay restitution in the amount of $174,156, and a $100 special assessment.

Aaron Jones was sentenced to 3 years probation. Jones was also ordered to pay restitution in the amount of $94,929.21, and a $100 special assessment.

All defendants were also ordered to perform 100 hours of community service.

On March 11, 2008, a federal grand jury in Cleveland, Ohio, returned a four-count indictment charging Michael Mills, Jr., Aaron Jones, Antonio Mills and Bryan Cartwright, with Fraud in Connection with Access Devices, Possession of 15 or more Unauthorized Access Devices, and Possession of Device-Making Equipment.

The indictment charged that between September 1, 2005, and September 19, 2005, Michael Mills, Jr., Velente Hill and Aaron Jones knowingly possessed, and aided and abetted the possession of approximately 1,022 unauthorized account numbers and account profiles for Discover Card, American Express, Visa and Mastercard credit accounts, which the defendants encoded onto "white plastic" cards used in ATMs and at point of sale terminals to obtain cash and merchandise valued at over $94,000.00. The Indictment also charged that during the same period of time, these defendants also possessed and aided and abetted the possession of device making equipment, specifically computers and encoders used to encode the white plastic.

The indictment further charged that between September 26, 2007, and October 1, 2007, Michael Mills, Jr., Antonio Mills and Bryan Cartwright knowingly, and with the intent to defraud, trafficked in and used one or more unauthorized access devices, specifically a First Bank of St. Louis debit card ending in 0823, along with the PIN for said account, to obtain approximately $174,156.00 in cash. The indictment also charged these defendants with possession of device making equipment used in connection with the encoding of account information on "white plastic" cards used to conduct numerous fraudulent ATM transactions.

During the investigation, the U.S. Secret Service seized a 2004 Audi A6 and approximately $90,000 in cash representing proceeds from the 2007 fraud committed against First Bank. The District Court has entered a preliminary order of forfeiture concerning the cash and the vehicle.

This case was prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Robert W. Kern, Cybercrimes Coordinator for the Cleveland U.S. Attorney's Office, following an investigation by the Cleveland Office of the United States Secret Service, the Westlake Police Department and the Cleveland Police Department.

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