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Cory Kettner receives 40 month prison sentence for using multiple stolen credit cards to make +\$20K in fraudulent purchases

Today, Multnomah County District Attorney Rod Underhill announced that 35-year-old Cory Kettner received a 40 month prison sentence after he pleaded guilty to using multiple stolen credit cards to make more than \$20,000 in fraudulent purchases.

"Identity theft can happen to anyone and the amount of financial damage that can be done to a victim is enormous especially if the theft isn't caught within a very short period of time," said Multnomah County Deputy District Attorney Kate Williams, who litigated this case. "Here, Cory Kettner had unfettered access to multiple stolen credit cards and was able to use them before the accounts were flagged as suspicious."

This carefully negotiated pretrial resolution brings a conclusion to three pending criminal cases Kettner had outstanding in Multnomah County. Combined, Kettner pleaded guilty to two counts of aggravated identity theft and one count of aggravated theft in the first degree.

On July 25, 2016, a person contacted the Beaverton Police Department after learning that her business credit card had been used to make multiple fraudulent purchases starting June 16, 2016 and ending about a month later. In total, the person using the stolen credit cards, later identified as Kettner, made nearly \$11,000 in fraudulent purchases at area grocery stores and several home improvement stores.

On December 18, 2018, a person contacted the Sandy Police Department after someone, later identified as Kettner, had used a credit card in his name and made more than \$11,600 in fraudulent purchases between November 25, 2018 and December 3, 2018. During the investigation, law enforcement recovered the victim's credit card in Gresham, Oregon after an alert store employee suspected the card was being used unlawfully. The credit card had been used several times to make jewelry purchases.

On December 20, 2018, Portland Police responded to art supply shop in the 5000 block of Southeast Milwaukie Avenue on reports of a fraudulent credit card being used. During the investigation, law enforcement learned that on multiple occasions, Kettner made online purchases using stolen credit cards. All of the purchases were in an amount less than \$1,300. When police located and arrested Kettner, they found some of the stolen credit cards used inside a bag in his possession.

Upon his release, Kettner will have one year of post-prison supervision.

October is National Cybersecurity Awareness Month. As such, the Multnomah County District Attorney's Office would like to offer the following tips for community members:

- Only provide your personal identifying information to individuals/organizations that you trust and who need that information
- Avoid email and phone scams by deleting all suspicious emails and/or hanging up on all suspicious phone calls
- Before clicking on any link within an email, confirm the authenticity of the email. Email addresses can easily be spoofed to make them appear official. The same can be said for websites.
- Set up automatic bank account notifications. Some financial institutions will allow you to set daily purchase limits.
- Consider freezing your credit with all three major credit bureaus. If you need to apply for credit or a loan, you can unfreeze them at that time. This will prevent someone from opening a credit card in your name.

The Multnomah County District Attorney's Office recognizes the Sandy Police Department, the Beaverton Police Department and the Portland Police Bureau for their dedicated efforts investigating these cases.

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