



DenverDA

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NEWS RELEASE

October 13, 2011

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THREE INDICTED IN NATIONWIDE CREDIT CARD SCAM

A Denver Grand Jury returned an indictment last week against three people accused of being part of a large, national crime ring that created and used counterfeit credit cards. The indictment is the result of an investigation by the United States Secret Service, Lone Tree Police Department, Aurora Police Department, and the Denver District Attorney's Office Economic Crime Unit.

Larry Jerome Coates (dob: 09-26-78), **Carl Hughes** (dob: 12-24-69) and **Tyrea Renee Taylor** (dob: 02-07-82) are charged by indictment with violating the Colorado Organized Crime Control Act (COCCA) (F2), and multiple counts of theft (F3), identity theft (F4), forgery (F5) and conspiracy (F4, F5, F6).

The charges allege that between May and September 2010, the defendants conspired to make and use counterfeit credit cards to purchase electronics, jewelry, clothing, food, gift cards and other items that were either used by the defendants or shipped out of state to be sold. The charges further allege that the defendants illegally obtained credit card account numbers that belonged to legitimate customers of Citibank of South Dakota, and encoded that account information onto counterfeit credit cards. Losses to Citibank are estimated to be more than \$200,000.

Hughes and Taylor remain in custody in the Denver County Jail; bond is set at \$500,000. They are scheduled to appear in Denver District Courtroom 5H tomorrow, Friday, October 14, 2011, at 8:30 a.m. to be advised of the charges. Coates was taken into custody in Maryland and will face extradition.

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The filing of a criminal charge is merely a formal accusation that an individual(s) committed a crime(s) under Colorado laws. A defendant is presumed innocent until and unless proven guilty. See Colo. RPC 3.6