



DenverDA

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NEWS RELEASE

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GIFT CARD SCAMMERS CHARGED

Denver District Mitch Morrissey has formally charged two men accused of scamming local retailers with zero-balance gift cards.

Jerome Holt (dob: 01-28-87) is charged with *theft* (F4) and *criminal impersonation* (F6).

Anthony Sykes (dob: 08-03-91) is charged with *attempted theft* (F5).

The charges allege that on Sunday, November 20, 2011, Holt fraudulently used a VISA gift card to buy merchandise at two downtown Denver stores and signed another person's name on the charge. The charge against Sykes alleges that he tried a similar fraudulent transaction at one of the same retailers the following day. The charges were filed yesterday. A third co-defendant has been cited with a city ordinance violation of providing false information.

Holt and Sykes both remain in custody in the Denver Detention Center; bond is set at \$2,500 for each defendant. They are scheduled to appear in Denver County Courtroom 2100 on Thursday, December 1, 2011 at 9:30 a.m. to be formally advised of the charges.

It is possible that there are additional retail victims; the investigation is continuing.

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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

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