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Three New York City Residents Plead Guilty For Possession of Counterfeit Credit Cards



ALBANY, NY – District Attorney P. David Soares announced today that PATRICK ROONEY, 22, JANAY SPENCER, 23, and REGINAL FRANCOIS, 22, all from New York City, have each pleaded guilty to (1) Count of Criminal Possession of a Forged Instrument in the Second Degree, a Class D Felony, before the Honorable Stephen Herrick in Albany County Court on February 6, 2013.

On September 11, 2012, ROONEY and SPENCER traveled in a vehicle driven by FRANCOIS from New York City to Albany with the intent of purchasing merchandise using counterfeit credit cards. As the defendants exited Interstate 90, a New York State Trooper pulled the vehicle over for a traffic violation on the exit ramp leading towards Crossgates Mall.

Upon approaching the vehicle, the Trooper detected the presence of marijuana emanating from the vehicle. In addition, the Trooper discovered that FRANCOIS was not licensed to operate a motor vehicle in New York State. A search of the vehicle revealed ROONEY, SPENCER and FRANCOIS to be in possession of numerous counterfeit credit cards as well as fake identification cards.

PATRICK ROONEY, JANAY SPENCER and REGINAL FRANCOIS each faces 1 to 3 years in State Prison when sentenced on March 27, 2013. The case against an alleged fourth passenger, MALCOLM BUTLER is still pending.

“The facts of this case show the lengths that some will go in order to defraud our local economy. As my office has seen over the past several years, there has been a noticeable increase in the instances of individuals traveling to Albany County and taking advantage of our robust local economy, but more importantly, taking advantage of hardworking local business owners and depriving them of their rightfully monetary compensation. I applaud the work of the New York State Police and ADA Clark for sending a message to all those who are considering coming to Albany County to use counterfeit currency to think twice,” commented DA Soares.

Assistant District Attorney Benjamin Clark of the Financial Crimes Bureau is prosecuting this case.

For more information please contact Cecilia Logue.

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All Individuals Are Presumed Innocent Until Proven Guilty