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## Guilty Plea for Glenmont Buffet Credit Card Schemer



**ALBANY, NY-** District Attorney P. David Soares announced today that SAIHING CHAN, 21, of Brooklyn, pleaded guilty to (1) Count of Criminal Possession of a Forged Instrument in the Second Degree, a Class D Felony, and (1) Count of Identity Theft in the First Degree, a Class D Felony, before the Honorable Stephen W. Herrick in Albany County Court yesterday afternoon.

CHAN faces up to 4-12 years in State Prison when sentenced on March 3, 2015.

On August 5, 2013 the Bethlehem Police, United States Secret Service, United States Department of Homeland Security, New York State Police, and other local law enforcement agencies executed a search warrant pursuant to an identity theft investigation at the Golden Town Buffet on Route 9W in the Town of Bethlehem.

During the execution of the warrant, the authorities arrested HENG LI, then 27, of Brooklyn, for using a credit card skimmer device to obtain personal identification information of 39 credit card numbers by fraudulent pretenses. LI also was in possession of a forged Michigan driver's license and under an active deportation order at the time of the search warrant execution, as were three other employees that were present at the restaurant at that time.

The investigation led the authorities to other individuals involved in this identity theft scheme, including CHAN. CHAN, together with others, used stolen credit card numbers and identities to purchase thousands of dollars' worth of merchandise.

On December 11, 2013, HENG LI was sentenced to 2 1/3 to 7 years in State Prison after pleading guilty to (1) Count of Criminal Possession of a Forged Instrument in the Second Degree, a Class D Felony, and (1) Count of Scheme to Defraud in the First Degree, a Class E Felony, before the Honorable Stephen Herrick in Albany County Court.

Another employee of the buffet, PHENG SATHONGOTH, then 42, of Manhattan, New York, was sentenced to 2 1/3 to 7 years in State Prison and ordered to pay \$4,549.64 in restitution before the Honorable Stephen Herrick in Albany County Court on April 28, 2014. On March 31, 2014, SATHONGOTH pleaded guilty to (1) Count of Identity Theft in the First Degree, a Class D Felony.

A final case against co-defendant BAO LIU remains open and pending at this time.

Financial Crimes Bureau Chief Daniel Lynch is prosecuting these cases.

For more information please contact Cecilia Walsh (518) 275-4710.

*All parties are presumed innocent unless and until proven guilty.*

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