



U.S. Department of Justice

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## **PRESS RELEASE**

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### **District Woman Pleads Guilty to Theft Charge Stemming From Her Role in Credit Card Scheme - Used Stolen Identifying Information to Pay D.C. Parking Tickets -**

WASHINGTON - Trina Hailstorks, 44, of Washington, D.C., pled guilty today to a charge of first degree theft stemming from her role in a scheme in which people used stolen credit cards to pay parking tickets, U.S. Attorney Ronald C. Machen Jr. announced.

Hailstorks pled guilty in U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia. The Honorable Judge Henry H. Kennedy, Jr. scheduled sentencing for June 27. Hailstorks faces a possible statutory sentence of up to 10 years of incarceration and a \$5,000 fine. Under federal sentencing guidelines, she faces a likely sentence of up to six months of incarceration.

According to information presented to the Court by Assistant U.S. Attorney Sherri L. Schornstein, beginning in 2005, a group of people conspired to steal the identifying information of numerous people, use that information to illegally obtain credit accounts, and use those accounts to acquire merchandise, pay for services, and pay for D.C. parking tickets.

In connection with the scheme, one co-conspirator enlisted Hailstorks to be the conduit with approximately 15 to 20 individuals. These individuals owed the District of Columbia money for parking tickets and wanted to have their tickets paid for less than the full cost.

For each person, Hailstorks collected the parking tickets, along with cash representing half of the face value of the fines owed to the District of Columbia. She then provided the tickets and the cash to a co-conspirator, who used stolen credit cards to pay for the full value of the District of Columbia parking tickets, approximately \$13,550. Once the District of Columbia became aware of the scheme, the Department of Motor Vehicles reversed the charges on the accounts that were used to make the payments and reinstated the parking tickets at issue.

Six others have previously pleaded guilty in connection with the investigation into the broader credit card scheme.

In announcing the guilty plea, U.S. Attorney Machen commended the work of those who investigated the case from the District of Columbia Office of Inspector General, Washington Division of the U.S. Postal Inspection Service, the Washington Field Office of the U.S. Secret Service, and the Metropolitan Police Department (MPD).

In particular, he commended the work of Special Agent Bernadette Todd-Atwater, of the D.C. Inspector General's Office; Postal Inspector Dean Davis, Special Agent Chris Macomber, of the Secret Service, and MPD Detective Michael Pavero. He also acknowledged the efforts of the staff of the U.S. Attorney's Office, including Paralegal Jared Forney, and Assistant U.S. Attorney Sherri L. Schornstein, who is prosecuting the cases.

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