



U.S. Department of Justice

United States Attorney
Northern District of Illinois

Gary S. Shapiro
Acting United States Attorney

327 South Church Street, Suite 3300
Rockford, Illinois 61101

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www.justice.gov/usao/iln

PRESS CONTACT:
AUSA Michael D. Love (815) 987-4444

FOUR MEN CHARGED IN IDENTITY FRAUD CONSPIRACY

ROCKFORD — Four men were charged in a superseding indictment yesterday by a federal grand jury and charged with three counts of wire fraud by obtaining personal identification information of others and using the information in a conspiracy to commit fraud. The fraud allegedly occurred between mid-2010 through at least January 2012.

According to the superseding indictment, **Anthony Hardy**, 41, **Cameron Love**, 27, **William Dorn**, 24, all of Rockford, Ill., and **Anthony Taylor**, 43, of Marietta, Ga., obtained names, social security numbers, dates of birth, and bank account numbers, by unlawful means. As part of the scheme, the men allegedly used the other persons' identification information and fictional identification information to purchase merchandise with checks from retail store chains and then attempted to return the merchandise to another one of the stores' locations for a cash refund, in all totaling tens of thousands of dollars. It is further alleged that the defendants rented cars and traveled by plane in pairs or groups to several different states to carry out their scheme.

Each count of wire fraud carries a maximum penalty of up to 20 years in prison, a term of up to 3 years of supervised release following imprisonment, a \$250,000 fine, and mandatory restitution. The Court may also impose a fine totaling twice the loss to any victim or twice the gain to the defendants, whichever is greater. If convicted, the Court must impose a reasonable sentence under the advisory United States Sentencing Guidelines.

The indictment was announced by Gary S. Shapiro, Acting United States Attorney for the Northern District of Illinois, and Thomas P. Brady, Inspector-in-Charge of the U.S. Postal Inspection Service in Chicago. The Rockford Police Department assisted in the investigation.

The government is being represented by Assistant U.S. Attorney Michael D. Love.

An indictment contains only charges and is not evidence of guilt. The defendants are presumed innocent and are entitled to a fair trial at which the government has the burden of proving the guilt of each defendant beyond a reasonable doubt.

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