

Department of Instice

United States Attorney Carter M. Stewart Southern District of Ohio

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COLUMBUS MAN AND WOMAN CHARGED WITH AGGRAVATED IDENTITY THEFT FOR USING INFORMATION TAKEN FROM COURT WEBSITE TO HIJACK CREDIT CARD ACCOUNTS

COLUMBUS – A federal grand jury here has indicted Katura J. Mozelle, 23, of Columbus and Kinte K. Green, 30, of Columbus alleging that they conspired to steal credit accounts belonging to people whose identities they had stolen from a government website in 2006.

Carter M. Stewart, United States Attorney for the Southern District of Ohio, David Barrick, Acting Resident Agent in Charge, U.S. Secret Service, Columbus, and Worthington Police Chief Michael E. Mauger announced the indictment returned yesterday.

The indictment alleges that Ms. Mozelle and Mr. Green accessed the Franklin County Municipal Court website in July 2006 where they entered random Social Security numbers, changing one digit at a time, until locating an individual who had been through the court system. They then obtained information including name, address, date of birth and driver's license numbers of as many as 70 individuals.

The indictment alleges that the two then used the information to take over existing credit accounts of as many as 14 accounts by contacting the financial institutions, reporting the card lost or stolen, changing the address, then having new cards issued and sent to the new address. The pair then allegedly used the fraudulently obtained credit cards to buy goods and services worth thousands of dollars.

"People need to check their credit card statements closely and report any unusual transactions immediately," Stewart said. "We need to protect our identity in the same way that we lock our other valuables in a safe."

The indictment charges Mozelle with one count of bank fraud, punishable by up to 30 years imprisonment. Mozelle and Green are each charged with one count of conspiracy to commit bank fraud, punishable by up to five years imprisonment, and six counts of aggravated identity theft. Each count of aggravated identity theft is punishable by a mandatory two-year prison term consecutive to any other time served.

The defendants will be summoned to appear before U.S. District Judge Gregory L. Frost, who is presiding over the case. Stewart commended the cooperative investigation by Secret Service agents and Worthington Police officers, along with Financial Crimes Chief Brenda Shoemaker, who is prosecuting the case.

An indictment is merely an accusation. A defendant should be presumed innocent unless convicted in court.

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