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WOMAN PLEADS GUILTY TO CREDIT CARD FRAUD

CHARLESTON, W. Va. – Kelli Reed, 33, of Nitro, West Virginia, pled guilty today before United States District Judge John T. Copenhaver, Jr. to access device fraud. Reed, who is scheduled to be sentenced on January 13, 2011, faces up to 10 years in prison and a \$250,000 fine. Ms. Reed worked as an administrative assistant for a corporation doing business in Nitro, West Virginia. From 2007-2008, Reed used the company credit card, issued in the name of the president of the company, for personal items. Over the course of a year, she charged \$10,942 in purchases she was not authorized to make. The total amount of loss to the corporation was approximately \$13,742. As part of her plea agreement, Reed has also agreed to pay \$13,742 in restitution.

This case is part of the ongoing efforts of United States Attorney's Office to prosecute theft from small businesses and cases of identity theft. United States Attorney Booth Goodwin stated: "This case is representative of the commitment my office has made and is making to prosecute those who would steal from small businesses and also those who would commit identity theft to accomplish the theft. We will continue to pursue these types of cases vigorously."

The Nitro Police Department and the United States Postal Inspection Service conducted the investigation. AUSA Erik Goes is handling the prosecution.

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