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PRESS RELEASE

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Former Howard University Security Officer Sentenced In Connection With Credit Card Scheme - She Stole Student Sign-in Sheets to Get ID Information -

WASHINGTON - Dawn Marshall, 27, of Washington, D.C., was sentenced today to 180 days of home detention for her participation in a scheme to steal identifying information, obtain credit, and/or access victims' existing bank accounts, and purchase merchandise, pay bills, and pay D.C. parking tickets with the stolen credit and bank accounts.

Marshall used her former position as a security guard at Howard University to steal sign-in sheets and obtain identifying information about students, including some who later became victims of the scam. She pled guilty in November 2010 to one count of fraud and related activity in connection with access devices. She was sentenced in the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia by the Honorable Henry H. Kennedy, Jr.

In addition to the home detention, during which Marshall will be on electronic monitoring, she was placed on three years of probation. She also must pay \$11,026 in restitution.

The sentencing was announced by U.S. Attorney Ronald C. Machen Jr.; Daniel S. Cortez, Inspector in Charge, Washington Division, U.S. Postal Inspection Service; District of Columbia Inspector General Charles J. Willoughby; David Beach, Special Agent in Charge, Washington Field Office, U.S. Secret Service, and Cathy L. Lanier, Chief of the Metropolitan Police Department (MPD).

According to information submitted to the court by Assistant U.S. Attorney Sherri L. Schornstein, Marshall was part of a highly sophisticated identity theft and fraud ring that operated in the Washington, D.C. area from December 2006 through March 2010.

The ring's activity involved more than 179 corporate and individual victims and approximately \$1.2 million in fraudulent transactions. The various conspirators obtained victims' identifying information and bank account information by stealing mail and credit card receipts from places including a medical office in the District of Columbia and businesses in the District of Columbia and Maryland. The information obtained was then used to make fraudulent

transactions on legitimate credit accounts maintained by victims, to open on-line credit accounts using the identification information of the victims, and to make debit transactions directly from the victims' checking accounts.

Marshall allowed her Northwest Washington residential address to be used for the receipt of packages ordered on-line and shipped from various third-party vendors. The packages contained assorted merchandise purchased with fraudulent credit accounts. Others involved in the criminal activity picked up the packages from Marshall's residence. Between approximately May and December 2007, Marshall had a role in more than \$11,000 of fraudulent transactions.

During the times relevant to the criminal case, she was employed as a security guard at Howard University, in the Health Sciences Library. On November 23, 2007, a search warrant was executed at her residence. When members of law enforcement entered the residence, Marshall and an individual, identified as her boyfriend, were in the process of shredding documents.

Among the documentary evidence recovered during the search were handwritten notes, bills, letters in response to credit applications, and checks – all bearing the names of individual victims in this case. Also recovered were sign-in sheets from Howard University's Health Sciences Library, which contained identifying information of Howard University students, including driver's license numbers. In many states, a person's driver's license number is also their social security number. Some of the students on the sign-in sheets were victimized in this case, as their identifying information was compromised and utilized in the fraud scheme.

Seven others earlier pled guilty to charges in the case.

In announcing the sentence, U.S. Attorney Machen, Inspector in Charge Cortez, Inspector General Willoughby, Special Agent in Charge Beach and Chief Lanier commended the work of D.C. Office of Inspector General Special Agent Bernadette Atwater, Postal Inspector Dean Davis, U.S. Secret Service Special Agent Chris Macomber, and MPD Detective Michael Pavero, as well as the staff of the U.S. Attorney's Office, including Legal Assistant Jared Forney. They also commended Assistant U.S. Attorney Sherri L. Schornstein, who is prosecuting the cases.