



Department of Justice

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Southern District of Florida**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
July 26, 2017
<https://www.justice.gov/usao-sdfl>

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West Palm Beach Man Convicted of Conspiring with his Brother, a United States Postal Service Letter Carrier, to Commit Access Device Fraud and Aggravated Identity Theft

Today, a federal jury convicted a West Palm Beach resident of conspiring with his brother, a United States Postal Service Letter Carrier, to commit access device fraud and aggravated identity theft.

Benjamin G. Greenberg, Acting United States Attorney for the Southern District of Florida, Rafiq Ahmad, Special Agent in Charge, United States Department of Labor, Office of Inspector General (DOL-OIG), Maximo Eamiguel, Special Agent in Charge, U.S. Postal Service, Office of Inspector General (USPS-OIG), Antonio J. Gomez, Inspector in Charge, U.S. Postal Inspection Service (USPIS), Miami Division, and Cissy Proctor, Executive Director, Florida Department of Economic Opportunity (DEO), made the announcement.

Mikel Clotaire was convicted following a three-day trial in West Palm Beach, Florida of conspiring to commit access device fraud, access device fraud, and five counts of aggravated identity theft. Sentencing is scheduled for October 12, 2017, before United States District Court Donald M. Middlebrooks.

According to the court record, including evidence introduced at trial, Clotaire engaged in a scheme to obtain fraudulent re-employment benefits from DEO. Clotaire's brother was working at the time as a letter carrier for the United States Postal Service in Palm Beach Gardens, Florida. At least eight fraudulent unemployment applications, using stolen identities, were then submitted to DEO and resulted in the issuance of Florida Visa debit cards. The debit cards were mailed through interstate commerce to the residential addresses on the postal route. The cards were ultimately transferred to Clotaire and at least two other co-conspirators and used to make withdrawals from ATMs. As a result of the fraudulent scheme, the State of Florida sustained approximately \$25,000 in financial losses.

Mr. Greenberg commended the investigative efforts of the DOL-OIG, USPS-OIG, USPIA and DEO. This case is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Adam McMichael.

A copy of this press release may be found on the website of the United States Attorney's Office for the Southern District of Florida at www.usdoj.gov/usao/fls. Related court documents and information may be found on the website of the District Court for the Southern District of Florida at www.flsd.uscourts.gov or on <http://pacer.flsd.uscourts.gov>.