



Colts Neck Police Department

1 Veterans Way COLTS NECK , NJ 07722 (732)780-7323

Officer Report for Incident 23CN14533

Nature: FRAUD
Location: P842

Address: 35 CR 537
COLTS NECK NJ 07722

Offense Codes: FATM, FATM

Received By: Kremp, Ma **How Received:** O **Agency:** P84
Responding Officers: Zoppi, J, Savage, Morgan, Capriotti, A
Responsible Officer: Zoppi, J **Disposition:** CAA 12/14/23
When Reported: 13:10:23 12/04/23 **Occurred Between:** 13:10:20 12/04/23 and 13:10:20 12/04/23

Assigned To: **Detail:** **Date Assigned:** **/**/**
Status: **Status Date:** **/**/** **Due Date:** **/**/**

Complainant:

Last: **First:** **Mid:**
DOB: **/**/** **Dr Lic:** **Address:**
Race: **Sex:** **Phone:** **City:** ,

Offense Codes

Reported: **Observed:** FATM Fraud, Credit Card or ATM
Additional Offense: FATM Fraud, Credit Card or ATM
Additional Offense: FATM Fraud, Credit Card or ATM

Circumstances

Responding Officers: **Unit :**
Zoppi, J P84062
Savage, Morgan P84045
Capriotti, A P84058

Responsible Officer: Zoppi, J **Agency:** P84
Received By: Kremp, Ma **Last Radio Log:** 23:46:31 12/14/23 C
How Received: O Ofcr. Initiated **Clearance:** RR Report Required
When Reported: 13:10:23 12/04/23 **Disposition:** CAA Date: 12/14/23
Judicial Status: **Occurred between:** 13:10:20 12/04/23
Misc Entry: **and:** 13:10:20 12/04/23

Statute: **Description :** **Method :**
2C Statute NJ 2C Criminal Statutes 2C:21-6C

Involvements

Date	Type	Description	
12/18/23	Name	GRIMALDI, JENNIFER M	Involved
12/18/23	Name	TUBRIDY, ERIN M	Involved
12/14/23	Name	SIMMONS, CRYSTAL S	Arrested
12/04/23	Name	NOLTE, ERIK M	Victim
12/04/23	Offense	CREDIT CARD CRIME-CRED CARD	Charged With
		THEFT-REC LOST/MISLAID CARD - 1 count	
12/04/23	Offense	CREDIT CARD THEFT - FRAUDULENT	Charged With
		USE OF CREDIT CARD - 1 count	
12/04/23	Offense	Warrant - Other - 1 count	Charged With
12/04/23	Cad Call	13:10:23 12/04/23 FRAUD	Initiating Call

Narrative

Investigation Narrative

On December 2nd, 2023, I, Detective Joseph Zoppi # 62, was contacted by the victim Erik Nolte. It should be noted Mr. Nolte is a Colts Neck resident who works for the Marlboro Township Police Department. Mr. Nolte is on loan with the Federal Bureau of Investigation and has been for the past 15 years.

Mr. Nolte advised he was the victim of credit card theft and fraud. Mr. Nolte, hereinafter referred to as the victim, explained he received a phone call from his banking institution, Affinity Federal Credit Union, on December 1st, 2023, at approximately 0927. Affinity Federal Credit Union fraud department was contacting him due to suspicious activity on his debit card ending with 4460. An unknown person(s) attempted to complete 12 transactions through the phone application Cash App on December 1st, 2023. These transactions were placed on hold until December 4th, 2023, by his banking institution.

The victim explained there were two additional transactions, one was an online purchase from the retailer, Skullcandy, and the second was for \$24.98 at Wawa (store number 8323). Wawa store number 8323 is located at 930 US 1 North, Avenel New Jersey 07001.

On December 4th, 2023, the victim responded to Wawa (store number 8323) and spoke with Lauen Chazelgreen who is the store manager there. Ms. Chazelgreen was able to retrieve the transaction information along with the corresponding surveillance camera footage. The victim had Ms. Chazelgreen burn a copy of the video and provided me with the same. I reviewed the surveillance footage, and the following is a summary of the video, see DVD-01 for full details of video:

At approximately 0233 hours on December 1st, 2023, there is a heavy-set black female, hereinafter referred to as the accused, seen entering the store through the front door. The same is wearing a black winter beanie style hat, a black cross strap style purse, a bright yellow shirt with the word "SECURITY" written in black on the back, a long sleeve hooded shirt underneath the yellow shirt, black pants, and white and black sneakers. The accused walked around the store then heads to the register to make a purchase. After completing the purchase, the accused leaves through the exit door.

The victim was able to receive a copy of the purchase the accused completed and provided me with a copy. The accused purchased two packs of Newport menthol 100 cigarettes, and a Wawa single pretzel. The total was \$24.98 and completed the purchase with the victims Visa debit card ending wit..

On November 30th, 2023, the victim was at Tommy's Tavern and Tap House, 3429 Route 9 Freehold Township NJ 07728, and arrived at approximately 2030 hours. The victim advised he was hanging out with friends for a Christmas party and left around 2145 hours. During the evening he did not use his debit card due to his friends' making purchases throughout the night. The victim believes the debit card must have fallen out of his pocket while at the restaurant.

On December 4th, 2023, I contacted the general manager of Tommy's Tavern & Tap, Freehold, Jennifer Grimaldi. Ms. Grimaldi advised the establishment contracts out the security personnel who checks identifications as well as assists in removing unwanted patrons. Mrs. Grimaldi further advised the company that is contracted with the restaurant is Dignitary Security Specialist. Mrs. Grimaldi provided me with one of the owners' information of Igor Eftindzioski.

Mrs. Grimaldi explained the security personnel get paid through Dignitary Security Specialist and have a sign in sheet for each day they work with the hours they worked. I requested Mrs. Grimaldi to provide me with a copy of the sign in sheet from November 30th, 2023. Mrs. Grimaldi emailed me a copy of the sign in sheet. I reviewed the sheet and there were two

names on the sheet for November 30th, 2023. The names on the sheet were Angel Simmons and Reggie Barnes, with a sign in time of 9:00PM and a sign out time of 2:00PM.

I spoke with Mr. Eftindzioski about his business and employees. He advised that he owns the business with a partner, Ray Bennet, and most of his employees are referred to him by others. I specifically asked about Angel Simmons. He advised she has been working for him part time for any jobs that need a female security guard. I then asked if she works at Tommy's Tavern and Tap House which he advised she does, and her last shift was on November 30th, 2023.

Detective Sergeant Savage and I responded to Tommy's Tavern and Tap House and spoke with Mrs. Grimaldi and the bar manager Erin Tubridy. I spoke with Ms. Tubridy first and advised her about my investigation. It should be noted Ms. Grimaldi was not inside the restaurant yet and Ms. Tubridy was alone with DSgt. Savage and myself.

I first showed Ms. Tubridy the security sign in sheet and asked if it was familiar to her and she said yes. I pointed to the date of November 30th, 2023, and she confirmed that there were only two security guards working that day. I then showed Ms. Tubridy three screenshots from the video that was recovered from the Wawa in Avenel. The first one that was shown to her was of the subject wearing the yellow shirt with "SECURITY" written on the back. I asked if this was the same uniform the security guards wear while working at Tommy's Tavern and Tap House. Ms. Tubridy said yes that is the same uniform. I then showed her two screenshots of the same subject entering the Wawa and asked her if she recognized the person. Ms. Tubridy advised she did recognize the subjects and identified the subject as Angel Simmons.

I then asked Ms. Tubridy to step away and bring Ms. Grimaldi over. I showed Ms. Grimaldi the same sign in sheet, and screenshots that was shown to Ms. Tubridy. Ms. Grimaldi stated she recognized the sign in sheet, confirmed that there were only two security guards working that day, confirmed the uniform was the same, and identified the subject in the screenshots as Angel Simmons. Ms. Grimaldi advised she did not want Angel Simmons, hereinafter referred to as the accused, to work at the establishment anymore.

I contacted Mr. Eftindzioski and advised him the accused was identified by the restaurant as the target in my investigation. I further advised him the establishment does not want the accused scheduled to work on December 7th, 2023, which typically would be her next shift. Mr. Eftindzioski advised that would not be an issue but to contact his partner Mr. Bennet due to him making the schedule. I spoke with Mr. Bennet, and he advised he would not schedule her for the establishment anymore.

On December 11th, 2023, I contacted Mr. Bennet in order to schedule the accused to work in order to speak with her in reference to the above matter. Mr. Bennet advised he would schedule her to work on December 14th, 2023, at 2100 hours, which is her normal shift, at Tommy's Tavern and Tap. I spoke with Ms. Grimaldi and advised her of the same.

On December 14th, 2023, Detective Sergeant Savage # 45, Detective Capriotti # 58, and I responded to Tommy's Tavern and Tap and waited for the accused to arrive for work. Tommy's Tavern and Tap is located just off of State Route 9 Southbound, and the front of the restaurant faces North with parking lots surrounding the building. There is one entrance off of State Route 9 to enter the parking lot and it is to the East of the building.

I positioned my vehicle in the North parking lot of the establishment facing the front entrance to the building. I had a clear view of the front entrance to the building and a clear view to the entrance off of State Route 9. At approximately 2113 hours I observed a gray Nissan Rouge bearing New Jersey registration pull into the parking lot and park directly in front of my vehicle. The vehicle was occupied by two subjects, one in the driver seat and the other in the front passenger seat. The subject that emerged from the front passenger seat I immediately recognized as the accused. The accused was wearing the same clothing as in the video footage from Wawa except had the hood of their sweatshirt up instead

of a black winter style beanie. I also recognized the bag the accused was wearing as the same bag as in the Wawa video footage.

I approached the vehicle and stated the name Angel, the accused answered, and I introduced myself. It should be noted DSgt. Savage and Det. Capriotti were in the vehicle which was parked right next to the vehicle the accused got out of. I advised the accused I needed to speak with her about the above case and I would like to do it back at Colts Neck Police Headquarters. The accused requested to make a phone call to her wife. After completion of the phone call, the accused advised she would come back and speak with me. The accused was asked to take everything out of her pockets and place it inside of her bag. All items were secured in the front seat of Colts Neck Patrol vehicle # 28 and she was placed in the rear of the same. Det. Capriotti transported the accused back to headquarters. Once back at headquarters, the accused was placed into interview room number one until a female officer could conduct a search.

Monmouth County Sheriff's Officer Capriotti # 294 responded to our headquarters and completed a search of the accused, yielding negative results. The accused was taken out of interview room number one and taken into a separate room that was not being recorded for the search. During the search, Officer Capriotti advised the accused and stated her name was Crystal and not Angel, which was confirmed later in the interview. The accused was then placed inside interview room number one.

On December 14th, 2023, at approximately 2128 hours, I conducted an audio and video recording of the accused, Crystal Simmons, along with Det. Capriotti. I advised Ms. Simmons that in order for us to speak I needed to advise her of her rights as per Miranda. I asked if she could read, write, and understand the English language to which she advised yes. I then asked what her highest level of education was to which she stated she achieved her High School diploma. I then advised her I was going to read her the Monmouth County Uniform Miranda Warning and Waiver Form and if she had any questions with any part of the form to stop me and ask and I would explain anything further.

I began reading the Miranda warning form by reading each of the first five lines. After I read each of the five lines, I asked the accused if she had any questions in regard to the five lines that I just read her, to which she stated no. I then asked her to put her initials next to each of the five lines advising she understood each of the lines to which she did. I then read the next line which stated, "I acknowledge that I have been advised of each constitutional right as initialed above and that I understand these rights." I then asked her if she understood all five of the lines that I read to her, she shook her head up and down, stated mmmmm, and I asked her if she understood, she stated "Yes". The accused then signed the line. I then read her the final line which stated, "Having these rights in mind, I wish to waive or give up these rights and make a knowing and voluntary statement and answer questions." I asked the accused if she was willing to answer any questions that I had for her, she stated "yeah" and signed the line. I then signed the first witness line, Det. Capriotti signed the next witness line and put the date and time of 12/14/2023 10:09PM.

The following is a summary of the Miranda interview with Crystal Simmons, see interview for full details. The accused has been working for Ray Bennett on and off for years. She explained she had been working at Tommy's for a few months, and normally works on Thursday nights as well as some Saturday nights. She advised that she does work at some other places working security. She went on to explain some of her job duties which are checking identifications of patriots and remove the same if needed. I then explained to the accused the above investigation. I then asked if she was working on November 30th, 2023, which she stated she was working at Tommy's with Reggie. I asked her what her hours are she stated 9:00 PM - 2:00 AM. I asked the accused who she arrived with at Tommy's tonight, she advised Reggie, which is the other security guard that she worked with two weeks ago. They know each other from working together and often drive in together because she does not drive or have a New Jersey driver's license. I asked the accused if they stopped anywhere after they got off

work on December 1st, 2023. She advised them they may have stopped somewhere, and if they were to stop somewhere it would be at a gas station due to being the only thing open at that time.

The accused admitted to locating a card outside of the restaurant and utilized the card. I then asked what she purchased, she advised if it was late at night, she would most likely purchase cigarettes. I asked her what type of cigarette she smoked, she advised Newport's. The accused did not use the card except for at Wawa. When she arrived at home, she tossed the card outside of her car onto the ground. I advised her there were many other transactions on the card, but she did not admit to making those transactions.

At this time, I notified the accused that she was under arrest and was being charged with credit card theft and credit card fraud. The accused was taken into the booking area and was placed on the bench. I was able to locate a New Jersey Identification Only ID and notified Monmouth County Radio Room to check Ms. Simmons for any warrants. Monmouth County Radio Room advised Ms. Simmons had an active ACS warrant out of Newark for \$200.00 (MC 2009 242843). Ms. Simmons released on her own recognizance with a new Newark court date of December 27th, 2023, and was given instructions to contact Newark Court to schedule a Zoom court date.

The accused was photographed, fingerprinted, and fully processed as per the Colts Neck Police Department standards. The accused was charged with 2C:21-6C(2), credit card theft, and 2C:21-6H, credit card fraud. All charges were placed on a summons, 1304 S 2023 000030, and the accused was served with the same. The accused was released with a pending superior court date of January 30th, 2024, at 0900 hours.

Case pending court.

Supplement

13:10:48 12/04/2023 - Kremp, Ma

CAD Call info/comments

Supplement

23:46:31 12/14/2023 - Davis, Sh

CAD Call info/comments

19:50:38 12/14/23 - Davis, Sh

Call type 1 reopened by Davis, Sh at 19:50:38 12/14/23

19:51:53 12/14/23 - Davis, Sh - From: Zoppi, J
myself 45 and 58 will be out a tommys .1621:26:40 12/14/23 - Davis, Sh - From: Capriotti, A
sm 55057 - trns fm back 10-321:29:15 12/14/23 - Davis, Sh
.36 / .18 neg for fm21:30:00 12/14/23 - Davis, Sh
.28 checking sgt21:31:08 12/14/23 - Davis, Sh
.11 neg21:35:45 12/14/23 - Davis, Sh
per 66157 theyre gonna send a fm officer over now21:39:32 12/14/23 - Davis, Sh - From: Capriotti, A
em 25506522:33:18 12/14/23 - Davis, Sh - From: Zoppi, J
ONE FM 41 -- DL22:43:45 12/14/23 - Davis, Sh
SIMMONS, CRYSTAL ONE ATS \$200 NEWARK -- ACS/NCIC NEG23:13:10 12/14/23 - Davis, Sh
per newark next court date 12/27 around 2p -- it is virtual so she will need to
contact courts to get the zoom url23:30:22 12/14/23 - Davis, Sh
973-353-847023:46:20 12/14/23 - Davis, Sh - From: Zoppi, J
female 41 released

Name Involvements:

Victim : 15904

Last: NOLTE

DOB:

First: ERIK

Dr Lic:

Mid: M

Address:

Race: W

Sex: M

Phone: --

City: COLTS NECK, NJ 07722

Arrested : 1105327

Last: SIMMONS

DOB:

First: CRYSTAL

Dr Lic:

Mid: S

Address:

Race: B

Sex: F

Phone: () -

City: IRVINGTON, NJ 07111-4216

Involved : 1045389

Last: TUBRIDY

DOB:

First: ERIN

Dr Lic: --

Mid: M

Address:

Race: W

Sex: F

Phone: () -

City: MORGANVILLE, NJ
07751-9747

Involved : 441154

Last: GRIMALDI

DOB:

First: JENNIFER

Dr Lic:

Mid: M

Address:

Race: W

Sex: F

Phone: () -

City: MATAWAN, NJ 07747-3224