



**U.S. Department of Justice  
U.S. Attorney's Office  
Western District of Texas**

**Johnny Sutton, U.S. Attorney**

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**FIVE CHARGED WITH FRAUD FOR SCHEME  
INVOLVING STOLEN CREDIT CARD NUMBERS AT LOCAL RESTAURANTS**

**United States Attorney Johnny Sutton** announced that Paul Allen Brown, 24, Daniel Ray Martin, 20, and David Allen Brackens, 23, of Midland, and Aneshia Pearl Brown, 22, and Royshena Lanette Holt, 28, of Odessa, were charged by federal complaint filed today in Midland with Conspiring to Commit Fraud. All five are detained pending a bond hearing scheduled for 10:30 am on Monday, February 25, 2008.

According to the criminal complaint and affidavit, the five defendants were part of a scheme involving the theft of credit card numbers by local restaurant employees. The stolen numbers were used to re-program gift cards that could be used to make purchases with the credit of others whose credit card numbers had been stolen. The complaint alleges that the aggregate value of the items fraudulently obtained by the defendants exceeds \$1,000.

The criminal complaint alleges that Paul Allen Brown admitted that he had been conducting this illegal activity since November 2007, shortly after his release from prison. The court document also states that Brown has previously been convicted twice for credit card abuse-related crimes. Brown, who worked as a cook at Logan's Roadhouse restaurant in Midland in December 2007 and more recently worked at a McDonald's restaurant, also admitted that the stolen credit card numbers were obtained by him from others who worked at these restaurants and who stole the card numbers from customers.

The investigation was initiated after a citizen filed a case of credit card abuse with the Midland Police Department in January. MPD detectives were able to determine that Brown had stolen the citizen's card number while working at Logan's restaurant in mid-December. When confronted, Brown admitted that a waiter had assisted him in obtaining the number, and he confessed to the scheme and provided the identity of his co-conspirators.

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According to the affidavit, Brown then assisted detectives and made recorded calls to the other defendants named in the case. One defendant, Aneshia Pearl Brown, provided stolen credit card numbers over the phone as Midland detectives listened in and recorded the conversations. She later confessed to providing stolen numbers to Brown that she acquired while working at McDonald's. Another defendant, Daniel Ray Martin, advised that he was ready to meet and provide more stolen numbers so that he and Brown could go shopping thereafter. He, too, later admitted to police that he had been participating in the scheme with Brown. A third co-defendant, David Allen Brackens, advised in the recorded phone call that he had photographs of credit card numbers for Brown, and wanted to go shopping for a plasma TV once Brown re-programmed his card. At the direction of detectives, Brown set a meeting with the co-defendants as he spoke to each of them. When the co-defendants agreed to meet with Brown and showed up, they were apprehended by police. Brackens was arrested in possession of a cell phone that contained a photo of a credit card not belonging to him.

Upon conviction, each defendant faces up to five years in federal prison and a maximum \$250,000 fine.

A criminal complaint is merely a charge and should not be considered as evidence of guilt. Defendants are presumed innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.

This case is being investigated by the Midland Police Department with the assistance of the Odessa Police Department, and is being prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorneys John Klassen and Jeff Parras.

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