



Department of Justice

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
MONDAY, JUNE 29, 2015
WWW.JUSTICE.GOV

CRM
(202) 514-2007
TTY (866) 544-5309

FORMER DEA EMPLOYEE SENTENCED TO TWO YEARS IN PRISON FOR CREDIT CARD FRAUD SCHEME

Used Fraudulently Acquired Government Credit Cards to Obtain Over \$113,000 in Cash

WASHINGTON – A former Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) employee was sentenced today to two years in prison for defrauding JPMorgan Chase & Co. out of more than \$113,000 using fraudulently issued government credit cards.

Assistant Attorney General Leslie R. Caldwell of the Justice Department's Criminal Division, U.S. Attorney Rod J. Rosenstein of the District of Maryland and Special Agent in Charge Michael P. Tompkins of the the Department of Justice Office of the Inspector General's (DOJ OIG) Washington, D.C. Field Office made the announcement.

Keenya Meshell Banks, 41, of Upper Marlboro, Maryland, pleaded guilty in April 2015 to one count of wire fraud. In addition to imposing the term of imprisonment, U.S. District Judge Deborah K. Chasanow ordered Banks to pay restitution in the amount of \$113,841.

According to her plea agreement, Banks was employed by the DEA as a Program Manager, and was responsible for the approval and issuance of government credit cards to DEA employees. Banks admitted that, while serving in that role, she submitted dozens of fake credit card applications to JPMorgan Chase & Co. for fictitious DEA employees, using names and identifying information of individuals who did not work at the DEA. In at least one instance, however, Banks submitted the identifying information of an actual DEA employee. Through this scheme, Banks admitted that she obtained at least 32 fraudulent credit cards, which she then used to withdraw more than \$113,000 from ATMs in Maryland and Northern Virginia. As part of her plea agreement, Banks agreed to forfeit the proceeds she received as a result of the scheme and to pay full restitution.

The case was investigated by the DOJ OIG. The case was prosecuted by Trial Attorneys Richard B. Evans and Justin Weitz of the Criminal Division's Public Integrity Section and Assistant U.S. Attorney Thomas P. Windom of the District of Maryland.

###

DO NOT REPLY TO THIS MESSAGE. IF YOU HAVE QUESTIONS, PLEASE USE THE CONTACTS IN THE MESSAGE OR CALL THE OFFICE OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS AT 202-514-2007.