



OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY
TWENTIETH JUDICIAL DISTRICT

Michael T. Dougherty, District Attorney

Press Release

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Defendant Ray Lora Correa Pled Guilty and Sentenced

Ray Lora Correa pled guilty and was sentenced on January 13, 2020, for a credit card skimming operation at the Diamond Shamrock in Lyons, Colorado. This guilty plea and sentence is the result of an extensive, high-level investigation. Correa was part of a group of people that worked together to engage in the skimming operation. A skimming device captures account holder information from a credit or debit card when the card holder swipes the card at a compromised card reader. Three separate devices were found at the Diamond Shamrock in the summer of 2018. The devices had been placed at three pumps where the suspects got access to the pumps because of stealing keys to the pump, accessing the back panel to the pumps, or tampering with the security tape on the cover to the card reader.

Correa was identified as one of the suspects when he was caught with stolen credit card information in May of 2018 at the Whole Foods in Superior. Correa was found with a laptop containing over 1,000 stolen credit card numbers, a magnetic card reader/writer, and numerous fraudulently obtained gift cards. 82 identity theft victims were identified as part of this investigation and 19 financial institutions were identified as having experienced losses totaling \$52,819. Although this was his first felony offense, his conduct was egregious and the prosecution handled the case in that manner. Correa pled guilty on January 13, 2020 to ID Theft (F4), Theft - \$20,000-\$100,000 (F4), and Possession of ID Theft Tools (F5). He was sentenced to 4 years in the Department of Corrections with 3 years of mandatory parole.

Skimming devices can be placed on a card reader either externally or internally, so there may not always be obvious signs of tampering. The District Attorney's Office encourages consumers to be vigilant when using credit card readers. At gas stations, we recommend using the pumps closest to the station, check to see if the security tape is intact, consider using credit cards versus debit cards so bank account information is not directly impacted, or paying inside or with cash.

District Attorney Michael Dougherty stated, “Identity theft is a pervasive problem. Through our crime prevention programs, we seek to help people from ever being victimized. When our community members are ripped off, we work hard to bring the perpetrator to justice. It is often difficult to track down these offenders and secure justice for victims of identity theft. In this case, thanks to the hard work of the Sheriff’s Office and our prosecution team, the guilty plea and prison sentence reflect the egregious nature of his acts.”