

*** NEWS RELEASE ***

SEASIDE MAN SENTENCED TO PRISON FOR MULTIPLE COUNTS OF IDENTITY THEFT

September 8, 2016

IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Monterey County District Attorney Dean D. Flippo announced today that Richard Huy Nguyen, age 36 of Seaside, was sentenced to three years and eight months in jail after his convictions for multiple counts of identity theft and possession of stolen property.

A comprehensive investigation by the U.S. Postal Inspector's Office revealed that Nguyen was part of a ring of identity thieves who stole victims' mail and used their personal identifying information to open credit cards and bank accounts, which they then used to defraud stores and other businesses. On some occasions, Nguyen altered stolen checks and made them payable to these fictitious account holders, which he deposited at various ATMs throughout the county. Nguyen and his co-conspirators were also responsible for creating synthetic identities, which contain some fictitious personal identifying information combined with information stolen from real victims.

Nguyen pleaded guilty to one count of identity theft, one count of possessing personal identifying information of 10 or more people with the intent to defraud, and one count of possessing a stolen vehicle taken during a burglary that occurred in Monterey in January of 2016. Seaside police pulled Nguyen over while driving the vehicle and carrying narcotics and other stolen property. Nguyen will serve his three year, eight month sentence in county jail due to realignment.

Most of the fraudulent activity linked to Nguyen occurred between June 2015 and March of 2016. Numerous co-conspirators have been charged and sentenced. The case was investigated by Inspector Thang Bui of the U.S. Postal Inspector's Office, with the assistance of many local police agencies.

Identity theft is often difficult to detect and can have severe impacts on a victim's credit. Victims of mail theft are encouraged to report the incident to their local police agency and continue to monitor their credit reports for evidence of fraud.