



Hernando County Sheriff's Office

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Media Release

From: Denise M. Moloney
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Re: Alert Publix Manager Detects Cloned Credit Card

Date: May 29, 2015

On 03-27-15, a manager at the Publix grocery store located at 4365 Commercial Way in Spring Hill contacted the Hernando County Sheriff's Office regarding possible fraudulent activity involving a credit card.

Upon arrival, the manager advised deputies that a customer entered the store and attempted to purchase several Busch Gardens passes using a possible fraudulent credit card. The manager immediately became suspicious when the receipt for the purchase printed out and the credit card number that appeared on the receipt was different than the one that appeared embossed on the American Express credit card that was used to make the purchase.

When the manager asked the customer about the discrepancy, he, along with the Hispanic male that accompanied him, fled from the store, dropping both the credit card and the Busch Gardens passes.

The case was turned over to Economic Crimes Detective Chris Vascellaro.

The name that appeared on the embossed American Express card was "Juan Rodriguez." Several leads, including the surveillance video, led Detective Vascellaro to a Juan Carlos Rodriguez in Pasco County.

After sending a subpoena to American Express, Detective Vascellaro was able to verify that the credit card was fictitious. He was also able to obtain account information for the card number that was actually used (the number that printed on the receipt) and was embedded in the magnetic strip of the card. This card number had been **cloned** and belonged to Dianne Weidman of Cincinnati, Ohio. Detective Vascellaro made contact with Weidman who

confirmed that she was the victim of **identity theft** and had cancelled her American Express card, after being alerted by the bank.

On 05-01-15, Detective Vascellaro obtained an arrest warrant for Rodriguez after being unable to locate him. On 05-28-15, Rodriguez was arrested at the Hernando County Court House on the warrant.

Juan Carlos Rodriguez W/M DOB/06-24-1973 was charged as follows:

- Fraudulent Use of a Credit Card
- Criminal Use of Personal Identification
- Bond - \$4,000.