



CITY OF CLEARWATER

POST OFFICE BOX 4748, CLEARWATER, FLORIDA 33758-4748
CLEARWATER POLICE DEPARTMENT, 645 PIERCE STREET, CLEARWATER, FLORIDA 33756
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POLICE DEPARTMENT

RELEASE # 10-102

June 24, 2010

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Public Safety PIO

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RESTAURANT WORKER ARRESTED FOR IDENTITY THEFT & CREDIT CARD FRAUD

WHO: Mircea Constantin Ciornei (Arrested)
DOB: 3-2-79
Land O Lakes, FL 34638
CHARGES: Identity Theft (4 counts)
Scheme to Defraud
Criminal Use of Personal Identification
Forgery of a Credit Card (3 Counts)
Driving While License Suspended / Revoked
Providing False Identification to Law Enforcement
Unlawful Use of a License

WHAT: Identity Theft/Credit Card Fraud

WHEN: March 2010 – June 23, 2010

WHERE: 2544 McMullen Boot Road (Tuscano Grille)
Clearwater, Fla.

SUMMARY: The suspect was employed as a server at the Tuscano Grille restaurant on McMullen Booth Road. While working, the suspect obtained several credit card numbers from customers of the restaurant. The suspect then fraudulently used the compromised credit card numbers by re-encoding the card numbers on various gift cards. The suspect then proceeded to make fraudulent purchases throughout the Tampa Bay area using the gift cards with the stolen credit card numbers.

Clearwater Police Economic Crimes Detectives identified the suspect through investigative means and develop probable cause for his arrest. Clearwater Police Officers stopped the suspect in his vehicle as he left





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work last night. The suspect presented false identification (his license was revoked). He was arrested and taken into custody. The investigation continues and additional charges are pending.

