

VALLEY CITY

POLICE

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PRESS RELEASE

Incident: Unauthorized Use of Person Information
Possession of Stolen Property

Case Number: VC-16-00232

Date: 03-23-16

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On 03-18-16, the Valley City Police Department received a number of photographs that were sent to the Department's Supervisor's cell phone. The anonymous, who worked for a Valley City employer, believed that they saw something that was unusual and wanted law enforcement to know about it. The tipster had observed a large number of credit



cards with various names and believed that might be illegal. One of the photographs, with names and numbers redacted, is included in this press release.

The photos and information supplied by the informant were not solicited by VCPD. The photos were alleged to be taken at 324 6th Avenue SW, Apt. 4, Valley City.

Based upon the subsequent investigation of information obtained from the submitted photos, VCPD Lt. Swenson was

able to identify and locate one victim, contact them and determine that the individual had recently been contacted by a credit card company reference a newly issued credit card in their name. The victim then checked her credit score and discovered some additional irregularities. The victim then contacted the Fargo Police Department and filed a crime report.

The resident of the apartment was identified as Long Man Ram Lau, age 33, an Assistant

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Professor in the Social Science Department at VCSU.

VCPD then submitted for a Search Warrant for the apartment in question, which was signed on March 22, 2016. The Search Warrant was served in the late afternoon hours of 03-22-16 without incident with the assistance of the North Dakota Bureau of Criminal Investigation (NDBCI) and the Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) of the Department of Homeland Security.

In excess of two hundred credit cards and gift cards in various names were located and seized, as well as multiple computers, electronic storage devices, suspected counterfeit merchandise, and medicines. Also seized was a large amount of financial paperwork. An amended Search Warrant was later served for the office of Lau at VCSU where additional credit and gift cards, computers, and electronic storage devices were seized.

Lau was placed under arrest for Unauthorized Use of Personal Information and Possession of Stolen Property, and transported to the Barnes County Corrections Center for booking.

There is a significant amount of follow-up investigation that needs to happen with this case. The forensic examinations of the computers and electronic storage devices alone will take months. VCPD will be working with both NDBCI and ICE in this effort. Part of this effort will be to locate and contact all of the individuals on the various media. Additional charges for Lau are expected.

This investigation is continuing and the Valley City Police Department is requesting that anyone with any information on this case to contact us at (701) 845-3110.