



# ***BRPD News Item***

Baton Rouge Police Department Office of Media Relations  
225.389.3948 office · 225.389.5589 fax · brpdmedia@brgov.com

Date:	2/18/10
Slug:	Fraudulent Gift Card Scam Busted
Submitted by:	Sgt. Don Kelly

Detectives have charged MIGUEL GARCIA, 38, 116 ATLAS ROAD, YOUNGSVILLE, LA, with Access Device Fraud, Forgery, Identity Theft and Felony Theft.

Garcia is believed to have used Visa and Mastercard gift cards that had been encoded with the stolen credit card information of several victims to purchase over \$8000 worth of goods from various local merchants.

Garcia was arrested on 2/15/10 after a victim out of state checked his on-line account and noticed recent purchases that had been made in Baton Rouge using his credit card number. He contacted the merchant, and police were alerted when Garcia later returned to the store.

Upon his arrest, Garcia was found to be in possession of nine fraudulently encoded gift cards, and still had over \$6000 worth of merchandise believed to have been purchased with them in and on his flatbed truck.

Merchants are reminded to always compare and verify the credit card number on the printed receipt with the number on the card itself, and to be alert to the gift card face value amount being covered, altered or obliterated.

Cardholders are also encouraged to regularly check and monitor their on-line credit card accounts, daily if possible, and to alert the proper authorities immediately should fraudulent charges be noted.

The investigation is continuing and additional charges are anticipated. Any other merchants or citizens who believe they may have been victims should contact the Baton Rouge Police Department Forgery Division at 389-3872.