



For Immediate Release
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HPD Investigating Additional Cloned Card Case

Harrisonburg, Va. – The Harrisonburg Police Department (HPD), is investigating several cases involving cloned credit and debit cards. When a card is “cloned” the victim is still in possession of the card, but the card is being used elsewhere by a suspect.

While each debit and credit card we own seems unique to us, the suspect obtains the victims bank information from skimmers that are placed in unsuspecting areas like gas pumps or ATM machines. When the victim unknowingly places their card in the skimmer, his/her card data is transferred from the magnetic strip or chip to the memory inside the skimmer, which is subsequently loaded onto the magnetic strip or chip of the card the suspect is going to use, usually a blank gift card or other card that has no data on it.

On October 6, a victim reported this type of situation to HPD. The victim was still in possession of their card when it was used by two suspects at Kohl’s in Harrisonburg for several hundred dollars-worth of merchandise. The two suspects, pictured, are described as Hispanic males in their 40’s. HPD is encouraging anyone with information about these men or their crimes to report it.

It is important for business owners and employees to be cautious of this type of activity. Generally, a suspect will use a card until the fraudulent activity is caught by the banking institution. If you see a person swiping several cards to get a purchase to go through, it may be prudent to alert your manager or to request an ID from the customer before continuing the transaction.

For more information on how you can protect yourself from being a victim of card skimming visit: <https://www.lifelock.com/learn-fraud-how-to-avoid-credit-card-skimming.html>.

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Anyone with information related to this case is encouraged to contact HPD's Major Crimes Unit at 540-437-2640. Those who wish to remain anonymous can contact Crime Solvers by calling 540-574-5050 or by texting "HPD" plus their tip to CRIMES (274637).



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VIRGINIA



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