IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF JACKSON COUNTY, MISSOURI
AT KANSAS CITY

POLICE NO. :	17-022604
PROSECUTOR NO. :	095438901

STATE OF MISSOURI,)
PLAINTIFF,)
vs.)
PEDRO DONACIANO BAPTISTA-ZACARIAS)
Jabillos Res Arizona pisoz Apt 2B,) **CASE NO.** 1716-CR
Caracas, Venezuela) **DIVISION**
DOB: 12/11/1978)
Race/Sex: H/M;)
SSN: NA)
DEFENDANT.)

COMPLAINT

Count I. Trafficking In Stolen Identities (570.224-001Y20042699.0)

The Prosecuting Attorney of the County of Jackson, State of Missouri, upon information and belief, charges that the defendant, in violation of Section 570.224, RSMo, committed the **Class B Felony of Trafficking in Stolen Identities**, punishable upon conviction under Section 558.011, RSMo, in that on or about March 24, 2017, in the County of Jackson, State of Missouri, the defendant, either acting alone or purposeully in concert with others, for the purpose of committing identity theft possessed bank account information from Commerce Bank holders, a means of identification, and that defendant did so with the intent to transfer such means of identification.

The range of punishment for a class B felony is imprisonment in the custody of the Missouri Department of Corrections for a term of years not less than five (5) years and not to exceed fifteen (15) years.

The facts that form the basis for this information and belief are contained in the attached statement(s) of facts, made a part hereof and submitted as a basis upon which this court may find the existence of probable cause.

Wherefore, the Prosecuting Attorney prays that an arrest warrant be issued as provided by law.

JEAN PETERS BAKER
Prosecuting Attorney
Jackson County, Missouri

State vs. Pedro Donaciano Baptista-Zacarias

by,

/s/ Jordan R. Bergus
Jordan R. Bergus (#64729)
Assistant Prosecuting Attorney
415 E. 12th St., 11th Floor
Kansas City, MO - 64106
(816) 881-3319
jbergus@jacksongov.org

WITNESSES:
Commerce Bank, Prosecuting Atty. Office, Kansas City, MO - 64106
[redacted]
DET Melinda L. Reno, 1125 Locust, Kansas City, MO - 64106
PO Kenton J. Stone, 1125 Locust, Kansas City, MO - 64106

PROBABLE CAUSE STATEMENT FORM

Date: 04-10-2017 CRN: 17-22604

I, Det. Mendy Reno #4474
(Name and identify law enforcement officer, or person having information as probable cause.)

knowing that false statements on this form are punishable by law, state that the facts contained herein are true.

I have probable cause to believe that on 03-24-2017 (Date), at 804 E. 12th Street (Address) in

Kansas City, Jackson (County) Missouri Pedro D. Baptista-Zazarias (Pedro Baptista) (Name of Offender(s))

W/M, 12-11-1978 (Description of Identity) committed one or more criminal offense(s).

Trafficking in Stolen Identities
Tampering with Computer Equipment

The facts supporting this belief are as follows:
On 03-24-2017, Renato LaCovara approached the ATM machine located at the Commerce Bank, 804 E. 12th Street, Kansas City, Jackson County, on foot, and installed an electronic skimming device (skimmer) for the purpose of stealing customer account numbers and PIN's. LaCovara was with Pedro Baptista. Approximately two hours later, he and Pedro Baptista returned to the same ATM machine and removed the skimming device. Commerce Bank contacted the police and they provided surveillance footage of LaCovara and Baptista installing and removing the device.

Commerce Bank determined 44 Commerce Bank customers had their ATM card numbers compromised from the ATM machine at 804 E. 12th Street, with a potential loss of $112,649.87, and an actual loss of $351.98. Commerce Bank determined the skimmer was placed on two additional Commerce Bank ATM's; 202 W. 43rd Street, Kansas City, Kansas, and 4020 Rainbow, Kansas City, Kansas, with a total of one hundred (100) Commerce Bank accounts compromised, and a potential loss of $388,597.73, and an actual loss of $21,341.05.

Three of the stolen Commerce Bank accounts were used at an ATM located in/near the Argosy Casino in Riverside, Missouri. The Missouri State Highway Patrol (MOSHP) arrested LaCovara in regard, and Baptista fled the scene but was later apprehended by Riverside, Missouri Police, and returned to the custody of the MOSHP at the Casino.

After waiving his Miranda Rights, Renato LaCovara admitted to the MOSHP that he and Baptista came to Kansas City to commit ATM fraud. LaCovara stated Baptista was responsible for everything and LaCovara only got the money from the ATM's. The MOSHP subsequently obtained a search warrant for LaCovara's and Baptista's hotel room located at the Super 8 hotel in Platte County. Execution of the Search Warrant revealed a lap top computer and the apparent skimming device and components, as well as approximately 100-200 plastic cards (gift cards) and approximately 20 blank credit cards with no account names or credit cards listed. Several receipts were recovered which matched the stolen account information taken from the ATM at 804 E. 12th Street, and other locations. The MOSHP seized and forfeited $10,400.00 in cash which was located in the hotel room. Sgt. Chris Watson with the MOSHP was shown photographs of the two subjects in the ATM surveillance footage from 804 E. 12th Street, and positively identified them as Renato LaCovara and Pedro Baptista.

Renato LaCovara and Pedro Baptista are Venezuelan, in the United States on Visa's. LaCovara is in the United States illegally, as his Visa is expired. Baptista is in the United States on a six-month tourist Visa (he arrived in February, 2017).

Form 50 P.D. (Rev. 9-2008)

PROBABLE CAUSE STATEMENT FORM

CRN 17-22604

On 04-04-17, Renato LaCovara was given his Miranda Waiver, Form 340 P.D. LaCovara invoked his right to an attorney and did not make a statement.

On 04-10-2017, after waiving his Miranda Rights and in the presence of his attorney, Pedro Baptista said he came to the United States to visit Renato LaCovara who was living in an apartment in Houston, Texas, and admitted coming to Kansas City for the purpose of installing the skimmer device. Baptista said he and LaCovara paid an unknown male $400.00 to drive them to the Kansas City area. Once here, Baptista rented a car which they used to travel to the ATM machines. Baptista stated LaCovara was in charge of the operation and knew how to install the skimmer device. Baptista admitted placing a piece of the skimmer on the ATM's, but it was LaCovara who installed the component that obtained the credit card information. Baptista said they would install the skimmer device, and then return approximately 2-3 hours later to remove it to make sure it was working. They would then re-install the device for another approximate 2 hours. Baptista said he does not know the exact locations of where they installed the device on ATM machines.

Baptista stated once the stolen account information was captured by the skimmer device, it was then transferred to blank gift cards. Baptista stated LaCovara already had several blank gift cards in his possession which they used to encode with the stolen account information. Baptista was shown a surveillance photograph from the ATM located at 804 E. 12th Street, Kansas City, Missouri, and admitted it was him with a piece of the skimming equipment in his hand. Baptista stated his involvement in the scheme is minimal and that LaCovara was in charge. Baptista stated they do not report to anyone else, and that he and LaCovara worked alone. Baptista stated once they obtained cash from the stolen account numbers, he and LaCovara put the money in a safe in the hotel room where they were staying.

Printed Name Det. Mendy Reno #4474 Signature Det. Mendy Reno #4474

The Court finds probable cause and directs the issuance of a warrant this ______ day of ______________.

____

Judge

Circuit Court of ____________________ County, State of Missouri.

Form 50 P.D. (Rev. 9-2008)

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF JACKSON COUNTY, MISSOURI
AT KANSAS CITY

POLICE NO. :	17-022604
PROSECUTOR NO. :	095438902

STATE OF MISSOURI,	)	
PLAINTIFF,	)	
vs.	)	
RENATO LACOVARA	)	
6400 Westheimer Rd,	)	**CASE NO.** 1716-CR
Houston, TX - 77054	)	**DIVISION**
DOB: 03/13/1986	)	
Race/Sex: H/M;	)	
SSN: XXXXX	)	
DEFENDANT.	)	

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Printed Name Det. Mendy Reno #4474 Signature Det. Mendy Reno #4474

The Court finds probable cause and directs the issuance of a warrant this ______ day of ______________.

____
Judge

Circuit Court of ____________________ County, State of Missouri.

Form 50 P.D. (Rev. 9-2008)