



JACKSON COUNTY STATE'S ATTORNEY

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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LeVONTA JOHNSON, CARBONDALE, SENTENCED FOR CONTINUING A FINANCIAL CRIMES ENTERPRISE

Michael C. Carr, Jackson County State's Attorney, announced today that LeVonta T. Johnson, 23, of Carbondale, was sentenced to the Illinois Department of Corrections after entering a plea of guilty to one count of Continuing a Financial Crimes Enterprise on August 28, 2017.

In early 2017, the Carbondale Police Department began investigating numerous complaints of credit card fraud and identity theft. Johnson was developed as a suspect. A search of his cellular device revealed approximately one hundred credit card numbers, expiration dates, and security codes along with the names of the respective card-holders and their addresses and phone numbers. It was learned Johnson purchased the stolen or compromised credit card information from websites using BitCoins. Johnson then either himself used the compromised credit card information to make purchases or distributed the information to others who used the information to make purchases.

On October 18, 2017, Johnson was sentenced to serve four (4) years in the Illinois Department of Corrections, to be followed by a two (2) year period of Mandatory Supervised Release term. Johnson meets the eligibility requirements to be placed in the Illinois Impact Incarceration Program, The Illinois impact incarceration program, more commonly referred to as "boot camp," is a program within the Illinois Department of Corrections that allows eligible offenders sentenced to prison the opportunity to significantly reduce their sentence. It is referred to as boot camp because the program is run like a military style boot camp. Boot camp allows its successful participants to be home after approximately 6 months, rather than serve the actual sentence with which they initially entered the Illinois Department of Corrections. If the offender cannot successful complete the program, he will then be required to finish out his remaining sentence. Those who do, will still remain under the control of prison authorities because they will be on parole. If they violate any parole conditions, they can be returned to prison to serve the balance of the original sentence.

The investigation was conducted by the Carbondale Police Department. Assistant State's Attorney Rebecca Blomer were responsible for the prosecution of the case.