LANCASTER BUSINESS OWNER CONVICTED OF FELONY RECEIVING STOLEN PROPERTY

On April 15, 2013 Todd Sherfey, 42, was sentenced by Judge Chris Martin to a three (3) year term of community control, including serving 30 days in jail, for Receiving Stolen Property, a felony of the fifth degree.

As the owner/operator of a precious metal brokerage in Lancaster, Sherfey purchased T.J. Maxx gift cards worth more than \$1000.00. Evidence was presented at trial that a ring of heroinaddicted shoplifters repeatedly stole items from T.J. Maxx and other stores in late 2011, which were returned for gift cards that the shoplifters sold to Sherfey's business for 40-60% of face value. Business records showed in a three month period where Sherfey paid one admitted shoplifter almost \$4500 for gift cards from various stores. After a three day jury trial, a jury found Sherfey guilty as charged.

Fairfield County Prosecuting Attorney Gregg Marx stated: "It is intolerable for any business to knowingly profit off of stolen property, and thereby fuel the cycle of theft and drug abuse in our community. Our office will continue to steadfastly prosecute people that break the law." This successful prosecution was a joint effort by various members of the Lancaster Police Department and Assistant Prosecuting Attorney Darren Meade. At sentencing, Judge Martin imposed an 11 month sentence, suspended for community control, which is one month short of the maximum sentence allowed by law. Sherfey was also ordered to serve 30 days in jail, to pay a \$750 fine and court costs, to have no involvement with any business dealing in gift cards, and to remain out of all T.J. Maxx stores.