



Township of Monroe

County of Middlesex

Griffin M. Banos
Chief of Police

Department of Police:
Municipal Complex
3 Municipal Plaza
Monroe Township, NJ 08831

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Contact: Sergeant Mark Salemi (PIO)

732-521-0222

Six Suspects Charged in Multi-State ATM and Retail Skimming Operation

Monroe Township, Middlesex County —

The Monroe Township Police Department has charged six suspects following an investigation into a large-scale ATM and retail skimming operation that stretched across several states.

In early March 2025, Monroe Township Police officers began receiving reports of fraudulent debit card transactions tied to an ATM inside a local convenience store. ATM skimming — the illegal placement of devices designed to steal card information and PINs — was quickly suspected.

Using license plate reader technology, detectives from the Criminal Investigations Division identified a suspect vehicle connected to the transactions. On March 25, 2025, detectives were alerted that the vehicle had been located in Newark, New Jersey. With help from the Newark Police Department, detectives located multiple suspects at a nearby residence. A search warrant was executed at the property, leading to the discovery of a sophisticated skimming operation. Investigators recovered more than 1,700 fraudulent debit cards, numerous skimming devices and tools, and over \$144,000 in cash.

Three individuals were arrested at the scene and lodged at the Middlesex County Adult Correctional Facility:

- Anton Balaban, 48 of Romania
- Constantin Gavrilă Balaută, 34 of Romania
- Constantin Daniel Balaban, 27 of Romania

Arrest warrants were also issued for:

- Denis Constantin Stoica, 25 of Romania
- Sorin Adrian Cristian Feraru, 26 of Romania
- Elena Ramona Campanu, 43 of Romania

The Monroe Township Police Department would like to recognize the Bayonne Police Department, the Newark Police Department, the Middlesex County Prosecutor's Office, and the FBI Field Office Newark/Red Bank for their critical assistance in this investigation.

Chief Griffin Banos stated, "This case highlights the outstanding work of our officers and the strength of collaboration between law enforcement agencies at every level. I want to personally thank the Bayonne Police Department, Newark Police Department, Middlesex County Prosecutor's Office, and the FBI Newark/Red Bank for their support throughout this investigation. I am extremely proud of the hard work and dedication shown by all our officers in bringing this complex case to light."

This investigation remains ongoing and additional charges are expected. Anyone with information related to the investigation or the whereabouts of the outstanding suspects are asked to contact Detective O'Brien or Detective Dzema at 732-521-0222.