



San Diego City Attorney Jan I. Goldsmith

NEWS RELEASE

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Man Pleads Guilty to Frequent Flier Mile Scam
San Diego City Attorney's Office Cautions Consumers Looking for Cheap Airfare

San Diego, CA: Cirilo Rocero Urmeneta, a thirty-seven year old Chula Vista resident, pleaded guilty yesterday to one misdemeanor count of petty theft. Urmeneta was placed on three years probation and ordered to pay court fines and \$700.00 in restitution to two separate victims.

Urmeneta advertised the sale of frequent flyer airline miles for "Cheap Roundtrip Tickets" on Craigslist.com in May of 2013. After responding to the advertisement, Urmeneta met with the victims and agreed to purchase legitimate round-trip airfare with the use of his frequent flier miles in exchange for \$350.00 cash per ticket. After the purchase, Urmeneta sent confirmation emails to the victims with the flight information. Within twenty-four hours Urmeneta cancelled the ticket purchase, receiving credit back to his frequent flier miles. Uninformed of the cancellation, the two separate victims checked the airlines website to find that their trips had been cancelled and Urmeneta had stolen their money.

City Attorney Jan Goldsmith cautions consumers looking for good deals on airfare. "The old adage 'if it seems too good to be true,' applies more than ever to Internet commerce," Goldsmith said. "This is particularly true if you don't know the identity of the seller, as is often the case with Web sites such Craigslist.org."

The Consumer and Environmental Protection Unit of the San Diego City Attorney's Office prosecutes violations of law that arise from consumer transactions within the City of San Diego and has a Consumer Help Line at (619) 533-5600.

For more consumer tips and information on scams, check out the Consumer News on the City Attorney's webpage, <http://www.sandiego.gov/cityattorney/media/newsletters>.

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