

# Tracing Townsend's plastic trail

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It allegedly began Dec. 9, 2001, with a \$7.42 charge at Williams-Sonoma in Langhorne.

A few weeks later, a \$219.98 steam cleaner was ordered from Chef's Catalog in Dallas.

Eventually, 339 swipes of the plastic later, former Northampton manager Bruce Townsend had racked up \$58,306 worth of unauthorized purchases on township credit cards, according to charges filed Wednesday by the Bucks County District Attorney's office.

According to the criminal complaint, a total of 341 unauthorized transactions were made on three cards.

On the public's dime, Townsend allegedly treated himself to dozens of dinners out — at Applebee's, New Jersey diners, expensive Washington, D.C., and Philadelphia eateries and more. He ordered numerous catalog items, charged airline tickets, lodging, collectibles, electronics and more, according to the criminal complaint.

Townsend charged more than \$7,000 for lodging alone since 2002, according to the district attorney's criminal complaint.

In July 2006, Townsend allegedly charged \$2,115 at the Millennium Broadway Hotel in New York City. According to the hotel's Web site, rates there range from \$239 to \$899 per room a night.

That same week, he also charged \$156 at Gray Line

New York Tours, according to the criminal complaint.

From June 13 to July 7, 2006, Townsend made three air travel purchases, totaling nearly \$700. Townsend also authorized at least \$800 worth of cash advances for personal use, the criminal complaint said.

Countless dinners out were allegedly charged over the course of the years: \$14.07 at a Deptford, N.J., Boston Market; a \$400 meal at Butterfield 9 restaurant in Washington, D.C.; two days in a row worth of charges at a New Jersey Pizzeria Uno; \$100 at the Lambertville Station and more.

Food was also mail-ordered; on Dec. 13, 2005, Townsend authorized a \$478 internet purchase at Omaha Steaks, according to the complaint.

And alcohol was charged, too. On Aug. 6, 2002, Townsend allegedly charged \$204 at The Wine Messenger.

The list of alleged unauthorized purchases goes on.

Townsend was apparently a loyal customer of Suncoast: From 2002 to 2005, he charged more than \$1,200 at the video store, according to the criminal complaint.

Furnishings from Plow & Hearth totaling \$1,759 were allegedly purchased in 2003, \$4,446 worth of computer products in a single 2005 transaction, \$245 on pet supplies from various stores in 2005 and 2006, \$39.95 on TurboTax computer software in 2006 and more.

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