

# Are you a frequent traveler?

## Hotel key cards can pose threat for identity theft

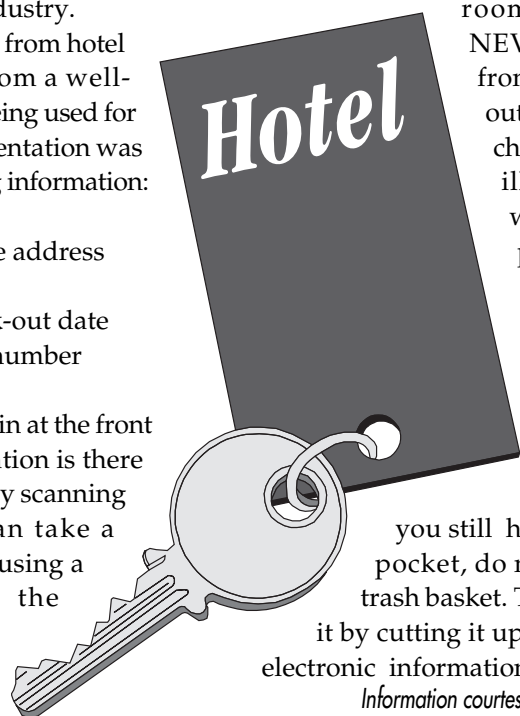
When you check out of a hotel that uses credit card type room keys, the clerk often asks you to turn in your key(s), or put them in a box or slot on the counter. It's good for the hotel because they save money by re-using those cards, but it may not be good for you.

According to the California Bureau of Investigation, Southern California law enforcement professionals assigned to detect new threats to personal security issues recently discovered what type of information is embedded in the credit card type hotel room keys used throughout the industry.

Although room keys differ from hotel to hotel, a key obtained from a well-known hotel chain that was being used for a regional identity theft presentation was found to contain the following information:

- Customer's name
- Customer's partial home address
- Hotel room number
- Check-in date and check-out date
- Customer's credit card number and expiration date!

When you turn the card(s) in at the front desk, your personal information is there for anyone to access by simply scanning the card. An employee can take a handful of cards home and, using a scanning device, access the information onto a laptop computer and go shopping at your expense.



Simply put, hotels do not erase the information on these cards until an employee re-issues the card to the next hotel guest. At that time, the new guest's information is electronically entered on the card, overwriting the previous one. But until the card is rewritten for the next guest, it usually is kept in a drawer at the front desk with YOUR INFORMATION ON IT!!!!

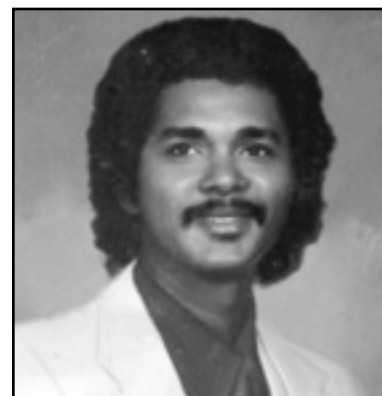
Bottom line – keep the cards, take them home with you, or destroy them. NEVER leave them behind in the room or room wastebasket, and NEVER turn them in to the front desk when you check out of a room. They will not charge you for the card (it's illegal to do so), and you won't be leaving valuable personal information that could be easily lifted off with any simple scanning device card reader.

For the same reason, if you arrive at the airport and discover you still have the card key in your pocket, do not toss it in an airport trash basket. Take it home and destroy it by cutting it up, especially through the electronic information strip.

*Information courtesy of Pasadena Police Department*

# REWARD

## \$1,000



Ansel Albert Thompson was murdered on May 16, 1990, at 1973 Ribault Scenic Drive. The suspect left the scene in the victim's red Nissan Pathfinder. A \$1,000 reward is being offered for the arrest and conviction of the person responsible for this murder. **If you have any information, please contact JSO at 630-0500.**



## A.J. JOHNS INC.

Complete site development services:

- CLEARING
- GRADING
- PAVING
- WATER
- SEWER
- DRAINAGE



3225 Anniston Road • Jacksonville, FL 32246  
641-2055

*"Serving the First Coast Since 1970"*

License CUCO32666

OUR EMPLOYEES ARE THE  
BEST IN THE BUSINESS  
FOR 40 YEARS



**W.W. GAY MECHANICAL  
CONTRACTOR, INC.**  
**388-2696**

HELP TURN THE  
HEAT UP  
ON CRIMINALS

Firehouse Subs will not risk the safety of its employees or guests. That's why we're offering a \$10,000 reward for the arrest and conviction of anyone involved in an armed robbery at any of our restaurants.

If you have any information regarding an armed robbery of a Firehouse Subs restaurant, please contact Firehouse Subs at 800.388.FIRE

**FIREHOUSE  
SUBS**  
Feed the Fire.