

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT

for the

Southern District of Florida

United States of America)

v.)

THOMAS CARL CORREA)

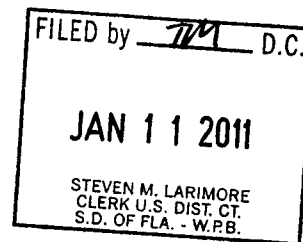
Case No. 11-8008-JMH)

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Defendant(s)



CRIMINAL COMPLAINT

I, the complainant in this case, state that the following is true to the best of my knowledge and belief.

On or about the date(s) of at least as early as 6/22/2009 to 8/31/2009 JMH in the county of Palm Beach in theSouthern District of Florida, the defendant(s) violated:

Code Section

18 USC 1349

Offense Description

did knowingly and willfully combine, conspire, confederate, and agree with each other and with others known and unknown to the United States Attorney, to execute, and cause the execution of, a scheme and artifice to defraud financial institutions, that is, HSBC Bank, and to obtain any of the moneys, funds, assets and other property owned by and under the custody and control of said financial institution, by means of materially false and fraudulent pretenses, representations, and promises, in violation of Title 18 United States Code, Section 1344.

This criminal complaint is based on these facts:

SEE ATTACHED AFFIDAVIT

☒ Continued on the attached sheet.

Complainant's signature

WALDO J. LONGA, Special Agent, FBI

Printed name and title

Sworn to before me and signed in my presence.

Date:

1-11-11

Judge's signature

City and state:

West Palm Beach, Florida

James M. Hopkins

Printed name and title

AFFIDAVIT

A. INTRODUCTION

I, Waldo J. Longa, having first been duly sworn, do hereby state the following:

1. I am a Special Agent with the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), United States Department of Justice. I have been so employed for 20 years and have worked several complex money laundering and fraud investigations. I am presently assigned to the Miami Division's Palm Beach Office of the FBI. My duties include the investigation of violations of mail fraud, wire fraud and money laundering laws. Through my experience in the course of these investigations, I have become familiar with the laundering of illicit funds. I have been involved in five long term undercover operations. During the course of these undercover operations, I have debriefed both confidential informants and cooperating witnesses regarding the habits and practices of people engaged in various fraud and money laundering activities. I am an "investigative or law enforcement officer" of the United States within the meaning of Title 18, United States Code (USC), Section 2510 (7), that is, an officer of the United States who is empowered by law to conduct investigations of and to make arrests for offenses enumerated in Title 18, USC Section 1349.

2. The following information is based on my personal knowledge, discussions with an undercover agent and a cooperating witness involved in meetings and telephone calls with subject, discussions with fellow agents, debriefings of a cooperating witness, review and analysis of financial records, and review of tapes and transcripts of consensually monitored meetings and telephone calls. Where the statements of others are related herein, they are related in substance and in part and not verbatim. This affidavit is being prepared only for the purpose of establishing

probable cause to obtain a criminal complaint and arrest warrant for subject THOMAS C. CORREA. Therefore, it does not contain all of the information known to me concerning the offense.

B. FACTS

Evidence of Fraud

3. Our investigation has shown that subject THOMAS C. CORREA, attempted to obtain a business lines of credit through fraudulent means.

4. On June 22, 2009, CORREA met with a cooperating witness (CW) and an undercover FBI employee (UCE) at a covert office facility located in Boca Raton, Florida. During an audio and video recorded conversation, CW, UCE and CORREA discussed obtaining a fraudulent business line of credit from a federally insured financial institution. CORREA initiated this meeting with the CW after being referred to CW by ERIC MILLS. According to CW, MILLS had obtained a fraudulent business line of credit in the past. During this introductory meeting, CORREA explained that he was a part-time Broward County Deputy Sheriff and a Principal for a Broward County School. CORREA then advised that he needed funds to invest in real estate deals. A discussion then took place as to how Correa could obtain a business line of credit for his real estate deals. They referred to CORREA's corporation, Children's Destiny, Inc, which was currently inactive with the Florida Department of State, Division of Corporations. The corporation was formed in the 90's to sell child safety video's. The discussion between everyone related to CORREA activating the corporation and then having it apply for the business line of credit. CORREA was advised by CW that they would have to create tax returns for the corporation since it was inactive. CW asked CORREA to provide prior years tax returns in order

to create the fraudulent tax returns similarly to the previous tax returns. CORREA then provided CW with the telephone number for his accountant. Additional conversation between everyone in the meeting involved a lengthy discussion on how much gross sales they should list on the manufactured tax returns to support a \$250,000 to \$300,000 loan. CW then called a contact at Wachovia Bank and provided CORREA's business and personal information that would be used to apply for a business loan. At the end of the meeting, CORREA gave UCE a \$1,500 check made payable to an undercover business as the payment for creating the fraudulent tax returns.

5. On July 13, 2009, CORREA met with CW at a covert office facility located in Boca Raton, Florida. Also at this meeting was Rodney Kahane. The purpose of the meeting was to have CORREA sign the fraudulent tax returns for years 2007 and 2008. During an audio and video recorded conversation, CORREA indicated that he would lose his job with the Sheriff's department if he got caught signing fraudulent tax returns. Nevertheless, CORREA signed the fraudulent tax returns, and asked what kind of loans he was going to be able to obtain. CW advised he would first get a \$50,000 or \$100,000 line of credit, and then the CW would go to other banks for additional business loans.

6. On July 30, 2009, during a recorded conversation, CORREA met with CW at a covert office facility located in Boca Raton, Florida. Also at this meeting was a banker from HSBC, William HEBERT. The purpose of the meeting was for CORREA to sign HSBC paperwork to support his application for the business line of credit under Children's Destiny, Inc. CORREA signed an HSBC Master Deposit Agreement for Personal Accounts form, a Corporate Banking Resolution form, an HSBC Business Card form, an HSBC Business Credit Card Application form, a Business Deposit Account Agreement form, and an IRS 4506 form.

7. On July 30, 2009, during a telephonically recorded conversation, CORREA expressed his concern over signing the IRS Form 4506. This form would allow the bank to request and obtain the actual tax returns, if they exist, for Children's Destiny, Inc. from the Internal Revenue Service (IRS). CW told CORREA not to worry, because he (CW) paid HEBERT, at HSBC, so that HEBERT would pull the form from CORREA's loan file. CW stated that the bank paperwork CORREA just signed would be used for a \$100,000 or \$150,000 business line of credit.

8. On August 07, 2009, during a telephonically recorded conversation, CORREA expressed his concern over signing the IRS Form 4506. CW explained that HEBERT, at HSBC, would pull the form from CORREA's file.

C. CONCLUSION

8. Based on the above facts, Affiant asserts that there is probable cause to believe that subject Thomas C. CORREA committed fraud in violation of Title 18 U.S.C. § 1349. Therefore, affiant requests the court find probable cause and issue a warrant to arrest Thomas C. CORREA.

FURTHER YOUR AFFIANT SAYETH NAUGHT


Waldo J. Longa, Special Agent, FBI

Sworn to me this
11 day of January, 2011.


JAMES M. HOPKINS
UNITED STATES MAGISTRATE JUDGE

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF FLORIDA

No. 11-8008-JMH

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

vs.

THOMAS CORREA,

Defendant.

_____ /

CRIMINAL COVER SHEET

1. Did this matter originate from a matter pending in the Northern Region of the United States Attorney's Office prior to October 14, 2003? _____ Yes X No
2. Did this matter originate from a matter pending in the Central Region of the United States Attorney's Office prior to September 1, 2007? _____ Yes X No

Respectfully submitted,

WIFREDO A. FERRER
UNITED STATES ATTORNEY

BY:

 _____
ELLEN COHEN

ASSISTANT UNITED STATES ATTORNEY
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UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF FLORIDA

PENALTY SHEET

Defendant's Name: THOMAS CORREA

Case No: 11-8008-JMH

Count #: 1

Conspiracy to Commit Fraud on a Financial Institution

18 U.S.C §1349

* Max.Penalty up to 30 years incarceration, \$1,000,000 fine and up to 5 years supervised release.

***Refers only to possible term of incarceration, does not include possible fines, restitution, special assessments, parole terms, or forfeitures that may be applicable.**