

FILED
U.S. DISTRICT COURT
EASTERN DISTRICT OF LA.

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CAROL L. MICHEL
CLERK

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
EASTERN DISTRICT OF LOUISIANA

FELONY

INDICTMENT FOR CONSPIRACY TO COMMIT WIRE FRAUD

22-256

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

*

CRIMINAL NO.

v.

*

SECTION:

SECT.GMAG.4

FOUAD K. ZETON

*

VIOLATION: 18 U.S.C. § 371

* * *

The Grand Jury charges that:

COUNT 1

A. AT ALL TIMES MATERIAL HEREIN:

1. FOUAD K. ZETON ("ZETON") resided in a house that he owned in New Orleans, Louisiana.

2. ZETON held a homeowners insurance policy with an insurance company, Company-A. The insurance policy covered, among other things, loss by theft of ZETON's personal property.

3. Co-Conspirator-A was a New Orleans Police Department ("NOPD") police officer.

4. In or around October 2019, Co-Conspirator-A informed ZETON that Co-Conspirator-A could use his position as a police officer, his knowledge of insurance claim

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processing, and his connections to an art appraiser to facilitate a false claim to Company-A that valuable paintings had been stolen from **ZETON's** house.

B. THE CONSPIRACY:

Beginning in and around October 2019 and continuing until on or about June 2, 2021, in the Eastern District of Louisiana and elsewhere, the defendant **FOUAD K. ZETON** and others did knowingly and willfully combine, conspire, confederate, and agree together and with each other to devise and intend to devise a scheme and artifice to:

- a) defraud Company-A out of money by transmitting and causing to be transmitted by means of wire communication, in interstate commerce, any writings, signs, signals, pictures and sounds for the purpose of executing said scheme and artifice, in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 1343; and
- b) defraud the NOPD and the citizens of New Orleans out of Co-Conspirator A's honest services as a police officer by transmitting and causing to be transmitted by means of wire communication, in interstate commerce, any writings, signs, signals, pictures and sounds for the purpose of executing said scheme and artifice, in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Sections 1343 and 1346.

C. THE SCHEME TO DEFRAUD:

It was part of the scheme that **FOUAD K. ZETON** and Co-Conspirator-A agreed, among other things, that:

1. **ZETON** would falsely report to the NOPD that certain valuable paintings had been stolen from his home, when in truth these paintings were of materially lower value than was reported and had not been stolen;

2. Co-Conspirator-A would respond to **ZETON**'s residence to take a police report;

3. Co-Conspirator-A would create a police report documenting **ZETON**'s false claim of stolen paintings;

4. **ZETON** would falsely claim to Company-A that he had discovered that certain valuable paintings had been stolen from his home;

5. **ZETON** would submit the police report to Company-A in support of the false insurance claim; and

6. in exchange for Co-Conspirator A's participation in the scheme (including Co-Conspirator A's official acts of creating and filing the police report), **ZETON** would pay Co-Conspirator A money from the insurance payout and would assist Co-Conspirator A in obtaining employment positions and promotions, including by influencing a high-ranking NOPD official to obtain a promotion for Co-Conspirator A.

D. OVERT ACTS:

In furtherance of the conspiracy and to effect the objects of the conspiracy, the following overt acts, among others, were committed in the Eastern District of Louisiana and elsewhere:

1. On November 6, 2019, at approximately 5:59 p.m., **FOUAD K. ZETON** placed a telephone call to Co-Conspirator A.

2. On November 6, 2019, at approximately 6:00 p.m., **ZETON** placed a 911 telephone call.

3. On November 6, 2019, at approximately 6:42 p.m., in response to **ZETON's** 911 call, Co-Conspirator A, in his capacity as an on-duty NOPD officer, reported to **ZETON's** house and activated the recording feature of his police body-worn video camera.

4. On November 6, 2019, during the body camera recording, outside **ZETON's** house, Co-Conspirator-A pretended that he was unable to get **ZETON** to answer the door and requested over his police radio that **ZETON** be telephoned.

5. On November 6, 2019, during the body camera recording, inside **ZETON's** house, **ZETON** and Co-Conspirator-A pretended to have not been in frequent contact with each other.

6. On November 6, 2019, during the body camera recording, inside **ZETON's** house, **ZETON** falsely stated that certain paintings had been stolen from his house.

7. On or about November 6, 2019, Co-Conspirator-A created and filed a false police report stating that paintings with a combined value of \$128,500 had been stolen from **ZETON's** house.

8. On or about November 22, 2019, **ZETON** caused Co-Conspirator A's November 6, 2019 police report to be transmitted, via a wire communication that traveled from the Eastern District of Louisiana to outside Louisiana, to a claims adjuster retained by Company-A.

All in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 371.

NOTICE OF FORFEITURE

1. The allegation of Count 1 of this Indictment is incorporated by reference as though set forth fully herein for the purpose of alleging forfeiture to the United States.

2. As a result of the offense alleged in Count 1, the defendant, **FOUAD K. ZETON**, shall forfeit to the United States pursuant to Title 18, United States Code, Section 981(a)(1)(C), and Title 28, United States Code, Section 2461(c), any property real or personal which constitutes or is derived from proceeds traceable to said offense.

3. If any of the above-described property, as a result of any act or omission of the defendant:

- a. cannot be located upon the exercise of due diligence;
- b. has been transferred or sold to, or deposited with, a third person;
- c. has been placed beyond the jurisdiction of the Court;
- d. has been substantially diminished in value; or
- e. has been commingled with other property which cannot be subdivided without difficulty;

the United States shall seek a money judgment and, pursuant to Title 21, United States Code, Section 853(p), forfeiture of any other property of the defendant up to the value of said property.

A TRUE BILL:



MICHAEL M. SIMPSON
Attorney for the United States
Acting Under the Authority
Conferred by 28 U.S.C. § 515

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Chandra Menon", written over a horizontal line.

CHANDRA MENON
Assistant United States Attorney

New Orleans, Louisiana
December 8, 2022