

FILED
U.S. DISTRICT COURT
EASTERN DISTRICT OF LA.
2018 NOV -8 P 3:57
WILLIAM W. BLEVINS
CLERK

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
EASTERN DISTRICT OF LOUISIANA

FELONY

**INDICTMENT FOR VIOLATIONS OF THE HOBBS
ACT AND THE FEDERAL GUN CONTROL ACT**

18-229

SECT.F MAG.5

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

* CRIMINAL NO. :

v.

* SECTION:

JAMES RAIFORD

* VIOLATIONS: 18 U.S.C. § 1951(a)
18 U.S.C. § 924(c)(1)(A)(i)
*
*
*

The Grand Jury charges that:

COUNT 1
(Hobbs Act Robbery)

1. At all times herein, Boost Mobile, located at 7058 Read Boulevard, New Orleans, Louisiana, was a wireless telecommunications store that sold cellular telephones and other products and services directly to customers (hereinafter the "Read Boulevard Boost Mobile"). The Read Boulevard Boost Mobile conducted its business in and affecting interstate commerce in that many of the products sold to its customers were obtained from producers and manufacturers outside the State of Louisiana, as well as suppliers inside the State of Louisiana, that obtained the products outside the State of Louisiana.

Fee _____
Process _____
X Dktd _____
CtRmDep _____
Doc. No. _____

2. On or about April 17, 2018, in the Eastern District of Louisiana, the defendant **JAMES RAIFORD**, did unlawfully obstruct, delay and affect, and attempt to obstruct, delay and affect, commerce as that term is defined in Title 18, United States Code, Section 1951, and the movement of articles and commodities in such commerce, by robbery, as that term is defined in Title 18, United States Code, Section 1951, in that the defendant, **JAMES RAIFORD**, did unlawfully take and obtain property consisting of approximately one thousand three hundred dollars (\$1,300.00) of United States currency, in the care, custody, control, management, and possession of a Read Boulevard Boost Mobile employee, against her will, by means of actual and threatened force, violence, and fear of injury, that is, the defendant, **JAMES RAIFORD**, did brandish what appeared to be a firearm; all in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 1951(a).

COUNT 2

(Possession of a Firearm During of a Crime of Violence)

On or about April 17, 2018, in the Eastern District of Louisiana, the defendant, **JAMES RAIFORD**, did knowingly possess a firearm during and in relation to a crime of violence for which he may be prosecuted in a court of the United States, that is, Hobbs Act Robbery, as charged in Count 1 of this Indictment; in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 924(c)(1)(A).

COUNT 3

(Hobbs Act Robbery)

1. At all times herein, Boost Mobile, located at 5741 Crowder Boulevard, New Orleans, Louisiana was a wireless telecommunications store that sold cellular telephones and other products and services directly to customers (hereinafter the “Crowder Boulevard Boost Mobile”). The Crowder Boulevard Boost Mobile conducted its business in and affecting interstate commerce in that many of the products sold to its customers were obtained from producers and manufacturers

outside the State of Louisiana, as well as suppliers inside the State of Louisiana, that obtained the products outside the State of Louisiana.

2. On or about April 19, 2018, in the Eastern District of Louisiana, the defendant **JAMES RAIFORD**, did unlawfully obstruct, delay and affect, and attempt to obstruct, delay and affect, commerce as that term is defined in Title 18, United States Code, Section 1951, and the movement of articles and commodities in such commerce, by robbery, as that term is defined in Title 18, United States Code, Section 1951, in that the defendant, **JAMES RAIFORD**, did unlawfully take and obtain property consisting of approximately one thousand three hundred twenty-two dollars (\$1,322.00) of United States currency, in the care, custody, control, management, and possession of Crowder Boulevard Boost Mobile employees, against their will, by means of actual and threatened force, violence, and fear of injury, that is, the defendant, **JAMES RAIFORD**, did brandish what appeared to be a firearm; all in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 1951(a).

COUNT 4

(Possession of a Firearm During of a Crime of Violence)

On or about April 19, 2018, in the Eastern District of Louisiana, the defendant, **JAMES RAIFORD**, did knowingly a firearm, during and in relation to a crime of violence for which he may be prosecuted in a court of the United States, that is, Hobbs Act Robbery, as charged in Count 3 of this Indictment; in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 924(c)(1)(A).

COUNT 5

(Attempted Hobbs Act Robbery)

1. At all times herein, Dollar General, located at 11020 Morrison Road, New Orleans, Louisiana, was a store that sold products directly to customers (hereinafter the “Morrison Road Dollar General”). The Morrison Road Dollar General conducted its business in and affecting

interstate commerce in that many of the products sold to its customers were obtained from producers and manufacturers outside the State of Louisiana, as well as suppliers inside the State of Louisiana, that obtained the products outside the State of Louisiana.

2. On or about April 24, 2018, in the Eastern District of Louisiana, the defendant **JAMES RAIFORD**, did unlawfully obstruct, delay and affect, and attempt to obstruct, delay and affect, commerce as that term is defined in Title 18, United States Code, Section 1951, and the movement of articles and commodities in such commerce, by robbery, as that term is defined in Title 18, United States Code, Section 1951, in that the defendant, **JAMES RAIFORD**, did unlawfully attempt to take and obtain property consisting of United States currency, in the care, custody, control, management, and possession of a Dollar General employee, against her will, by means of actual and threatened force, violence, and fear of injury, that is, the defendant, **JAMES RAIFORD**, did brandish what appeared to be a firearm; all in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 1951(a).

COUNT 6
(Use of a Firearm During of a Crime of Violence)

On or about April 24, 2018, in the Eastern District of Louisiana, the defendant, **JAMES RAIFORD**, did knowingly possess a firearm, during and in relation to a crime of violence for which he may be prosecuted in a court of the United States, that is, Attempted Hobbs Act Robbery as charged in Count 5 of this Indictment; in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 924(c)(1)(A).

COUNT 7
(Hobbs Act Robbery)

1. At all times herein, Kwik Pik gas station and convenience store located at 10040 Morrison Road, New Orleans, Louisiana, was a store that sold products directly to customers (hereinafter the “Morrison Road Kwik Pik”). The Morrison Road Kwik Pik conducted its business in and affecting interstate commerce in that many of the products sold to its customers were obtained from producers and manufacturers outside the State of Louisiana, as well as suppliers inside the State of Louisiana, that obtained the products outside the State of Louisiana.

2. On or about April 24, 2018, in the Eastern District of Louisiana, the defendant **JAMES RAIFORD**, did unlawfully obstruct, delay and affect, and attempt to obstruct, delay and affect, commerce as that term is defined in Title 18, United States Code, Section 1951, and the movement of articles and commodities in such commerce, by robbery, as that term is defined in Title 18, United States Code, Section 1951, in that the defendant, **JAMES RAIFORD**, did unlawfully take and obtain property consisting of approximately six hundred dollars (\$600.00) of United States currency, in the care, custody, control, management, and possession of the Morrison Road Kwik Pik employees, against their will, by means of actual and threatened force, violence, and fear of injury, that is, the defendant, **JAMES RAIFORD**, did brandish what appeared to be a firearm; all in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 1951(a).

COUNT 8
(Possession of a Firearm During of a Crime of Violence)

On or about the April 24, 2018, in the Eastern District of Louisiana, the defendant, **JAMES RAIFORD**, did knowingly possess a firearm, during and in relation to a crime of violence for which he may be prosecuted in a court of the United States, that is, Hobbs Act Robbery as charged in Count 7 of this Indictment; in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 924(c)(1)(A).

COUNT 9
(Hobbs Act Robbery)

1. At all times herein, Boost Mobile, located at 2277 St. Claude Avenue, New Orleans, Louisiana was a wireless telecommunications store that sold cellular telephones and other products and services directly to customers (hereinafter the “St. Claude Boost Mobile”). The St. Claude Boost Mobile conducted its business in and affecting interstate commerce in that many of the products sold to its customers were obtained from producers and manufacturers outside the State of Louisiana, as well as suppliers inside the State of Louisiana, that obtained the products outside the State of Louisiana.

2. On or about April 25, 2018, in the Eastern District of Louisiana, the defendant **JAMES RAIFORD**, did unlawfully obstruct, delay and affect, and attempt to obstruct, delay and affect, commerce as that term is defined in Title 18, United States Code, Section 1951, and the movement of articles and commodities in such commerce, by robbery, as that term is defined in Title 18, United States Code, Section 1951, in that the defendant, **JAMES RAIFORD**, did unlawfully take and obtain property consisting of approximately three hundred fifty dollars (\$350.00) of United States currency, in the care, custody, control, management, and possession of a St. Claude Boost Mobile employee, against her will, by means of actual and threatened force, violence, and fear of injury, that is, the defendant, **JAMES RAIFORD**, did brandish what appeared to be a firearm; all in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 1951(a).

COUNT 10
(Possession of a Firearm During of a Crime of Violence)

On or about the April 25, 2018, in the Eastern District of Louisiana, the defendant, **JAMES RAIFORD**, did knowingly possess use a firearm, during and in relation to a crime of violence for

which he may be prosecuted in a court of the United States, that is, Hobbs Act Robbery as charged in Count 9 of this Indictment; in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 924(c)(1)(A).

NOTICE OF HOBBS ACT FORFEITURE

1. The allegations of Counts 1, 3, 5, 7 and 9 of this Indictment are realleged and incorporated by reference as though set forth fully herein for the purpose of alleging forfeiture to the United States of America pursuant to the provisions of Title 18, United States Code, Sections 1951 and 981(a)(1)(C), made applicable through Title 28, United States Code, Section 2461(c).

2. As a result of the offenses alleged in Counts 1, 3, 5, 7 and 9, defendant, **JAMES RAIFORD**, shall forfeit to the United States pursuant to Title 18, United States Code, Section 981(a)(1)(C), made applicable through Title 28, United States Code, Section 2461(c), any and all property, real or personal, which constitutes or is derived from proceeds traceable to a violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 1951.

3. If any of the property subject to forfeiture, as a result of any act or omission of the defendants:

- 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;

it is the intent of the United States, pursuant to Title 21, United States Code, Section 853(p), to seek forfeiture of any other property of said defendants up to the value of the above forfeitable property.

All in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Sections 1951 and 981(a)(1)(C), made applicable through Title 28, United States Code, Section 2461(c).

NOTICE OF GUN FORFEITURE

1. The allegations of Counts 2, 4, 6, 8, and 10 of this Indictment are realleged and incorporated by reference as though set forth fully herein for the purpose of alleging forfeiture to the United States of America pursuant to the provisions of Title 18, United States Code, Section 924 (d)(1) and Title 28, United States Code, Section 2461(c).

2. As a result of the offenses alleged in Counts 2, 4, 6, 8, and 10, defendant, **JAMES RAIFORD**, shall forfeit to the United States pursuant to Title 18, United States Code, Section 924(d)(1) and Title 28, United States Code, Section 2461, any firearm or ammunition, which was involved in or used in a knowing violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 924(c)(1)(A), as alleged in Counts 2, 4, 6, 8, and 10 of this Indictment.

3. If any of the property subject to forfeiture pursuant to Paragraph 2 of this Notice of Forfeiture, as a result of any act or omission of the defendants:

- 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;

it is the intent of the United States, pursuant to Title 21, United States Code, Section 853(p), to seek forfeiture of any other property of said defendants up to the value of the above forfeitable property.

All in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Sections 924(c)(1)(A) and 924(d).

A TRUE BILL:



PETER G. STRASSER
UNITED STATES ATTORNEY

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Brittany L. Reed", written over a horizontal line.

Brittany L. Reed
Assistant United States Attorney
Louisiana Bar Roll No. 31299

New Orleans, Louisiana
November 8, 2018