

U.S. DISTRICT COURT
EASTERN DISTRICT OF LOUISIANA
FILED FEB 21 2019
WILLIAM W. BLEVINS
CLERK

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
EASTERN DISTRICT OF LOUISIANA

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA * CRIMINAL NO. 18-195
v. * SECTION: "L"
COURTNEY C. DUPLESSIS * VIOLATION: 18 U.S.C. § 1709
* * *

FACTUAL BASIS

The above-named defendant, **COURTNEY C. DUPLESSIS** ("DUPLESSIS"), has agreed to plead guilty to Count Two of the Indictment now pending against her. Should this matter have gone to trial, the United States of America would have proven beyond a reasonable doubt, through the introduction of relevant, competent, and admissible testimonial, physical and demonstrative evidence, the following facts to support the allegations pending against the defendant.

At all times material herein, the defendant, **DUPLESSIS**, was employed by the United States Postal Service as a City Letter Carrier working at the Carrollton Post Office in New Orleans, LA and the Elmwood Post Office in Harahan, LA, both located in the Eastern District of Louisiana.

The case against **DUPLESSIS** began as a result of customer complaints regarding problems with the delivery of their mail. Based on those complaints, the Office of Inspector General for the U.S. Postal Service ("Postal OIG" or "Postal agents") initiated an investigation and determined the complaints were related to **DUPLESSIS**'s route. As part of their investigation, Postal agents mailed a piece of test mail containing a \$15.00 Target gift card to a cooperating postal customer named J.Z. in New Orleans, LA 70118. Postal OIG determined the test mail was not delivered to the customer and that **DUPLESSIS** used the same Target gift card at the store

AUSA BKC
Defendant CD
Defense Counsel ME

located on Clearview Parkway on March 3, 2018. Target surveillance video obtained by Postal agents shows **DUPLESSIS** leaving the store after using the stolen Target gift card.

On or about May 3, 2018, Postal OIG received another complaint regarding **DUPLESSIS**. The complainant, R.C., of Versailles, MO, reported that she mailed a \$30.00 Wal-Mart gift card to a resident (X.K.) at *** S. Starrett, River Ridge, LA and that the letter and gift card were never delivered. Postal OIG discovered **DUPLESSIS** used the stolen Wal-Mart gift card at the Wal-Mart store in Harahan on May 5, 2018. Wal-Mart surveillance video captured **DUPLESSIS**, in her postal uniform, leaving the store after using the gift card. Wal-Mart records reveal **DUPLESSIS** used her Visa debit card ending 0645 at the same time she used the stolen Wal-Mart gift card.

Based on their initial findings, on June 18, 2018, Postal agents prepared and placed four (4) additional articles of integrity "test" mail containing cash and gifts cards in the distribution letter case for **DUPLESSIS** at the Elmwood Post Office. On June 19, 2018, **DUPLESSIS** reported to work, sorted her mail, and left the post office with her mail and the test pieces of mail. Soon after leaving the post office, a tracking device alerted the agents that **DUPLESSIS** had opened one of the pieces of test mail. Agents followed **DUPLESSIS** to a convenience store and observed her ordering and paying for lunch. Agents determined she used one of the marked \$20.00 bills enclosed in the test mail to pay for her lunch. After recovering the marked money from the store, agents confronted **DUPLESSIS** while she was in her postal vehicle.

After being advised of her *Miranda* rights, Postal OIG agents advised **DUPLESSIS** that they were investigating her for mail theft. According to **DUPLESSIS**, she opened the mail and

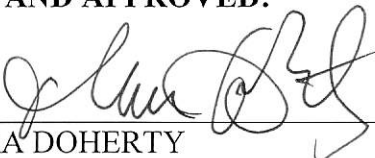
removed cash from several letters. **DUPLESSIS** said the rifled letters were in her satchel hanging in her vehicle and the stolen money was tucked into her bra.

Agents obtained consent to search **DUPLESSIS's** personal vehicle. During the search of her car, the agents recovered 54 additional articles of mail from her trunk. The recovered mail appeared to have been out for delivery sometime between May 2, 2018, and June 19, 2018. **DUPLESSIS** admitted to taking the mail recovered in her trunk and not delivering it as well.


Following the search of **DUPLESSIS's** postal vehicle, agents conducted a recorded interview. During the post-*Miranda* interview, **DUPLESSIS** said she opened four (4) letters, removed the currency from within, and placed the cash in her bra. **DUPLESSIS** removed the money from her bra. Agents then matched all of the serial numbers to the cash included in the test mail. **DUPLESSIS** also admitted to stealing the Target gift card she used on March 3, 2018, as well as the Wal-Mart gift card that she used on May 5, 2018.

The defendant, **COURTNEY C. DUPLESSIS**, further agrees that the information herein is not all the information known or known to her about her conduct, but that facts contained in this Factual Basis are true and correct, and support the offense charged in Count 2 of the Indictment.

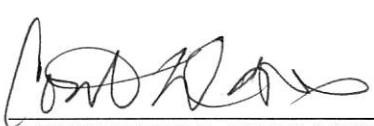
READ AND APPROVED:

 2/20/19

MAURA DOHERTY DATE
Counsel for Defendant

 2/21/19

BRIAN M. KLEBBA DATE
Assistant United States Attorney

 2/21/19

COURTNEY C. DUPLESSIS DATE
Defendant