

**IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA**

| | | |
|---------------------------------|----------|--|
| UNITED STATES OF AMERICA | : | CRIMINAL NO. 22-433 |
| v. | : | DATE FILED: |
| ZACHKEY JAMES | : | VIOLATIONS: |
| | : | 18 U.S.C. § 1704 (possession of stolen |
| | : | postal keys – 1 count) |
| | : | 18 U.S.C. § 1708 (possession of stolen mail |
| | : | – 1 count) |
| | : | 18 U.S.C. § 1708 (mail theft – 2 counts) |
| | : | 18 U.S.C. § 912 (false personation – 2 |
| | : | counts) |
| | : | 18 U.S.C. § 1343 (wire fraud – 5 counts) |
| | : | 18 U.S.C. § 1028A (aggravated identity |
| | : | theft – 1 count) |
| | | Notice of forfeiture |

SUPERSEDING INFORMATION

COUNT ONE
(Possession of Stolen Postal Keys)

THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY CHARGES THAT:

On or about November 2, 2022, in the Eastern District of Pennsylvania, defendant

ZACHKEY JAMES

knowingly and unlawfully possessed keys suited to locks adopted by the United States Postal Service and in use on authorized receptacles for the deposit of mail matter; and keys to any lock box, lock drawer, or other authorized receptacle for the deposit or delivery of mail matter; that is:

- a. Arrow Key 41 20413, which opened collection boxes in the zip code 19143;
- b. Arrow Key 414 1895, which opened collection boxes in the zip code 19138; and

- c. Arrow Key 14 5415, which opened collection boxes in the zip codes
19121, 19132, and 19133;

with the intent unlawfully or improperly to use the same, and to cause the same to be unlawfully and improperly used.

In violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 1704.

COUNT TWO
(Possession of Stolen Mail)

THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY FURTHER CHARGES THAT:

On or about November 2, 2022, in the Eastern District of Pennsylvania, defendant

ZACHKEY JAMES

knowingly unlawfully possessed stolen United States mail knowing it to have been stolen, that is, he possessed approximately 15 mail-in ballots, stolen from United States Postal Service collection boxes located in the Eastern District of Pennsylvania.

In violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 1708.

COUNT THREE
(Mail Theft)

THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY FURTHER CHARGES THAT:

On or about July 21, 2022, in the Eastern District of Pennsylvania, defendant

ZACHKEY JAMES

knowingly stole and took from and out of an authorized depository for mail matter located at or near the Kingsessing Post Office, undelivered United States Postal Service mail matter.

In violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 1708.

COUNT FOUR
(Mail Theft)

THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY FURTHER CHARGES THAT:

On or about October 26, 2022, in the Eastern District of Pennsylvania, defendant

ZACHKEY JAMES

knowingly stole and took from and out of an authorized depository for mail matter located at or near the East Germantown Post Office, undelivered United States Postal Service mail matter.

In violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 1708.

COUNT FIVE
(False Impersonation)

THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY FURTHER CHARGES THAT:

On or about July 21, 2022, in the Eastern District of Pennsylvania, defendant

ZACHKEY JAMES

falsely assumed and pretended to be an officer and employee of the United States acting under the authority thereof, that is, a Mail Carrier of the United States Postal Service, and in such assumed and pretended character falsely obtained a thing of value, in that he obtained United States Postal Service mail matter.

In violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 912.

COUNT SIX
(False Impersonation)

THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY FURTHER CHARGES THAT:

On or about October 26, 2022, in the Eastern District of Pennsylvania, defendant

ZACHKEY JAMES

falsely assumed and pretended to be an officer and employee of the United States acting under the authority thereof, that is, a Mail Carrier of the United States Postal Service, and in such assumed and pretended character falsely obtained a thing of value, in that he obtained United States Postal Service mail matter.

In violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 912.

COUNTS SEVEN THROUGH ELEVEN
(Wire Fraud)

THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY FURTHER CHARGES THAT:

At all times material to this information:

1. Defendant ZACHKEY JAMES was a resident of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.
2. Eagle Check Cashing LLC offered money order cashing services in the Eastern District of Pennsylvania. After a customer cashed a money order at Eagle Check Cashing LLC, Eagle Check Cashing LLC electronically deposited that money order at Surety Bank. Surety Bank and its computer servers were located in Florida.
3. United States Post Offices cashed money orders issued by the United States Postal Service. When an individual cashed such a money order at a Post Office, it caused interstate wire communications to be sent to United States Postal servers in Eagan, Minnesota.
4. PNC Bank was a financial institution with accounts insured by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, certificate number 6384.

THE SCHEME

5. From in or about late 2020 to at least in or about November 2022, in the Eastern District of Pennsylvania, and elsewhere, defendant

ZACHKEY JAMES

devised and intended to devise a scheme to defraud and to obtain money and property by means of false and fraudulent pretenses, representations, and promises.

MANNER AND MEANS

It was part of the scheme that:

6. Defendant ZACHKEY JAMES orchestrated a scheme to obtain checks and money orders payable to others, alter them to be payable to himself, and deposit the forged checks and money orders.

7. Defendant ZACHKEY JAMES, and others known to the United States Attorney, obtained United States Postal Service keys capable of opening blue United States Postal Service collection boxes.

8. Defendant ZACHKEY JAMES obtained clothing and accessories of the type used by United States Postal Service letter carriers, including shorts, a shirt, a sweatshirt, and a satchel.

9. To obtain checks and money orders from the United States mail, defendant ZACHKEY JAMES used United States Postal Service keys to open blue United States Postal Service collection boxes, from which he removed the mail in search of checks and money orders.

10. In or about July, 2022, and again in or about October, 2022, defendant ZACHKEY JAMES dressed himself as a United States Postal Service letter carrier while removing mail from collection boxes.

11. Once defendant ZACHKEY JAMES obtained such checks and money orders, he altered the payee name on those checks and money orders to be payable to defendant JAMES and the names of others known to the United States Attorney, and then either cashed those checks and money orders or deposited those forged checks and money orders into accounts controlled by defendant JAMES and others known to the United States Attorney, although defendant JAMES was not the true or intended payee of such checks and money orders.

12. In some instances, defendant ZACHKEY JAMES withdrew or attempted

to withdraw the fraudulently deposited funds from the accounts he controlled.

THE WIRES

13. On or about the dates set forth below, in the Eastern District of Pennsylvania, and elsewhere, defendant

ZACHKEY JAMES,

for the purpose of executing the scheme described above, caused to be transmitted by means of wire communications in interstate commerce the signals and sounds described below for each count, each transmission constituting a separate count:

| COUNT | DATE | DESCRIPTION OF WIRE TRANSMISSION |
|--------------|-------------------|--|
| SEVEN | February 5, 2021 | Electronic submission of forged postal money order ending in -163, in the amount of \$115.35, from a United States Post office in the Eastern District of Pennsylvania to United States Postal Service servers in Minnesota. |
| EIGHT | March 1, 2021 | Electronic deposit of forged Money Gram money order ending in -109, in the amount of \$975, from Eagle Check Cashing LLC to Surety Bank. |
| NINE | March 27, 2021 | Electronic submission of forged postal money order ending in -794, in the amount of \$1,000, from a United States Post office in the Eastern District of Pennsylvania to United States Postal Service servers in Minnesota. |
| TEN | February 27, 2022 | Electronic deposit of forged postal money order ending in -670, in the amount of \$200, from Eagle Check Cashing LLC to Surety Bank. |
| ELEVEN | November 1, 2022 | Electronic submission of forged postal money order ending in -514, in the amount of \$980, from a United States Post office in the Eastern District of Pennsylvania to United States Postal Service servers in Minnesota. |

All in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 1343.

COUNT TWELVE
(Aggravated Identity Theft)

THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY FURTHER CHARGES THAT:

From on or about November 1, 2020, to at least on or about November 4, 2020, in the Eastern District of Pennsylvania, and elsewhere, defendant

ZACHKEY JAMES

knowingly and without lawful authority possessed and used a means of identification of another person, that is, U.J.'s name and the account number associated with U.J.'s Freedom Credit Union account ending -9610, during and in relation to wire fraud, in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 1343, as charged in Counts Seven through Eleven, knowing that the means of identification belonged to Victim U.J.

In violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 1028A(a)(1), (c)(5).

NOTICE OF FORFEITURE

THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY FURTHER CHARGES THAT:

1. As a result of the violations of Title 18, United States Code, Sections 1343 and 1708, set forth in this information, defendant

ZACHKEY JAMES

shall forfeit to the United States of America any property, real or personal, that constitutes, or is derived from, proceeds traceable to the commission of such violations, including but not limited to:

- a. the sum of at least \$345,681.61 in United States currency; and
- b. one jeweled pendant in the shape of the letters and numbers “Z4”.

2. If any of the property subject to forfeiture, 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 party;
- (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 divided without difficulty;

it is the intent of the United States, pursuant to Title 28, United States Code, Section 2461(c), incorporating Title 21, United States Code, Section 853(p), to seek forfeiture of any other property of the defendant up to the value of the property subject to forfeiture.

All pursuant to Title 18, United States Code, Section 981 and Title 28, United States Code, Section 2461(c).

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Christine C. Romero".

JACQUELINE C. ROMERO
UNITED STATES ATTORNEY