

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
DISTRICT OF NEW JERSEY**

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA	:	Crim. No. 23-
	:	
v.	:	
	:	18 U.S.C. § 1957(a)
JEREMY EARLEY	:	

I N F O R M A T I O N

The defendant having waived in open court prosecution by Indictment, the United States Attorney for the District of New Jersey charges:

The Defendant and Co-Conspirators

1. At all times relevant to this Information:
 - a. The defendant, JEREMY EARLEY (“EARLEY”), resided in Galloway, New Jersey. Defendant EARLEY owned or controlled the New Jersey businesses D2R Agency LLC and More Life Records LLC.
 - b. Defendant JEREMY EARLEY maintained a business bank account at Financial Institution 1 in the name of D2R Agency LLC. From on or about January 1, 2021 through on or about May 17, 2021, EARLEY maintained a business bank account at Financial Institution 1 in the name of More Life Records LLC. Beginning on or about May 10, 2021, defendant EARLEY maintained a business bank account at Financial Institution 2 in the name of More Life Records LLC.

c. Co-conspirator Rhonda Thomas (“Thomas”), who is a co-conspirator not named as a defendant herein and charged elsewhere, resided in Sicklerville, New Jersey.

d. Lender 1 and Lender 2 were “financial institutions” within the meaning of Title 18, United States Code, Section 20, that participated as lenders in the Paycheck Protection Program (“PPP”), as described herein.

e. The U.S. Small Business Administration (“SBA”) was an independent agency of the federal government created to aid, counsel, assist, and protect the interests of small business concerns, preserve free competitive enterprise, and maintain and strengthen the overall economy of the United States.

The Paycheck Protection Program

f. The Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (“CARES”) Act was a federal law enacted in or around March 2020 and was designed to provide emergency financial assistance to the millions of Americans who suffered the economic effects caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. One source of relief provided by the CARES Act was the authorization of billions of dollars in forgivable loans to small businesses for job retention and certain other expenses, through a program referred to as the Paycheck Protection Program (“PPP”).

g. To obtain a PPP loan, a qualifying business had to submit a PPP loan application signed by an authorized representative of the business. The applicant of a PPP loan was required to acknowledge the program rules

and make certain affirmative certifications in order to be eligible to obtain the PPP loan. In the PPP loan application, the applicant had to state, among other things, its average monthly payroll expenses and number of employees. These figures were used to calculate the amount of money the business was eligible to receive under the PPP. In addition, businesses applying for a PPP loan had to provide documentation showing their payroll expenses.

h. A PPP loan application had to be processed by a participating financial institution (the lender). If the PPP loan application was approved, the lender funded the PPP loan using its own monies, which were 100% guaranteed by the SBA. Data from the application, including information about the borrower, the total amount of the loan, and the listed number of employees, was transmitted by the lender to the SBA in the course of processing the loan.

i. PPP loan proceeds could only be used by the business for certain permissible expenses, including payroll costs, interest on mortgages, rent, and utilities. The PPP allowed the interest and principal on the PPP loan to be entirely forgiven if the business used the loan proceeds on these expense items within a designated period of time after receiving the proceeds and used a certain amount of the PPP loan proceeds on payroll expenses.

Engaging in Monetary Transactions with Criminally Derived Funds

The D2R Agency LLC Loan and Subsequent Money Laundering

2. In or about July 2020, Rhonda Thomas submitted a PPP loan application to Lender 1 on behalf of D2R Agency LLC seeking a loan for

approximately \$362,500 (the “D2R Application”). Thomas listed defendant JEREMY EARLEY as “Owner.”

3. The D2R Application contained materially false and fraudulent information, including that D2R Agency LLC had 17 employees and had an average monthly payroll of \$145,000.

4. As part of the D2R Application, Thomas submitted to Lender 1 a materially false and fraudulent Internal Revenue Service (“IRS”) Form 940 (Employers Annual Federal Unemployment Tax Return) for 2019 showing that D2R Agency LLC paid \$1,728,000 in wages to employees during 2019. This supporting document was created solely for purposes of applying for the PPP loan and was never submitted to the IRS.

5. In fact, D2R Agency LLC had only one employee and paid minimal wages in 2019.

6. Based on the D2R Application, Lender 1 approved the PPP loan to D2R Agency and, on or about July 29, 2020, Lender 1 disbursed approximately \$362,500 to a bank account controlled by defendant JEREMY EARLEY in the name of D2R Agency LLC at Financial Institution 1.

7. After the loan proceeds were paid into the D2R Agency LLC bank account at Financial Institution 1, defendant JEREMY EARLEY wrote a check in the amount of \$108,750 to a business controlled by Rhonda Thomas, which Thomas deposited into a bank account she controlled.

The More Life Records LLC Loan and Subsequent Money Laundering

8. In or about February 2021, Rhonda Thomas submitted a PPP loan application to Lender 2 on behalf of More Life Records LLC seeking a loan for approximately \$956,250 (the “More Life Application”). Thomas listed EARLEY as “Owner.”

9. The More Life Application contained materially false and fraudulent information, including that More Life Records LLC had 46 employees and had an average monthly payroll of \$382,400.

10. As part of the More Life Application, Rhonda Thomas submitted to Lender 1 a materially false and fraudulent IRS Form 940 (Employers Annual Federal Unemployment Tax Return) for 2019 showing that More Life Records LLC paid \$4,590,000 in wages to employees during 2019. This supporting document was created solely for purposes of applying for the PPP loan and was never submitted to the IRS.

11. In fact, More Life Records LLC had no employees and paid no wages in 2019.

12. Based on the More Life Application, Lender 2 approved the PPP loan to More Life Records LLC and, on or about February 24, 2021, Lender 2 disbursed approximately \$956,250 to a bank account controlled by defendant JEREMY EARLEY in the name of More Life Records LLC at Financial Institution 1.

13. After the loan proceeds were paid into the More Life Records LLC bank account at Financial Institution 1, defendant JERMEY EARLEY wrote 3

checks totaling \$286,875 to businesses controlled by Rhonda Thomas, which Thomas deposited into bank accounts she controlled.

14. On or about May 10, 2021, defendant JEREMY EARLEY opened a business bank account in the name of More Life Records LLC at Financial Institution 2. Defendant EARLEY was the sole signatory on this account.

15. On or about May 17, 2021, defendant JEREMY EARLEY wired approximately \$411,620 from the fraudulently obtained More Life PPP loan referenced above from the More Life Records LLC bank account at Financial Institution 1 into the More Life Records LLC bank account at Financial Institution 2.

16. On or about July 12, 2022, defendant JEREMY EARLEY wired \$85,000 consisting of proceeds of the fraudulent More Life Records LLC PPP loan out of the Financial Institution 2 More Life Records LLC bank account to an account at Financial Institution 3.

17. On or about July 12, 2022, in Atlantic County, in the District of New Jersey and elsewhere, the defendant,

JEREMY EARLEY,

did knowingly engage and attempt to engage in a monetary transaction through a financial institution, affecting interstate and foreign commerce, in criminally derived property of a value greater than \$10,000, specifically by wiring approximately \$85,000 from the More Life Records LLC bank account at Financial Institution 2, such property having been derived from a specified

unlawful activity, namely, bank fraud, contrary to Title 18, United States Code, Section 1344.

In violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 1957(a).

FORFEITURE ALLEGATION

1. As the result of committing the money laundering conspiracy offense in violation of 18 U.S.C. § 1957(a)(1) alleged in this Information, the defendant,

JEREMY EARLEY

shall forfeit to the United States, pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 982(a)(1), all property, real and personal, involved in the money laundering offense, and all property traceable to such property.

Substitute Assets Provision

2. If any of the property described above, 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 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,

the United States shall be entitled, pursuant to 21 U.S.C. § 853(p), as incorporated by 18 U.S.C. § 982(b), to forfeiture of any other property of the defendants up to the value of the above-described forfeitable property.



PHILIP R. SELLINGER
United States Attorney

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UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

v.

JEREMY EARLEY

INFORMATION FOR

18 U.S.C. § 1957(a)

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