

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

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA : Hon.
 :
 v. : Criminal No. 21-
 :
 :
 LATOYIA McCOLLUM : 18 U.S.C. § 1512(c)
 :

INFORMATION

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

BACKGROUND

1. At various times relevant to this Information:

a. Defendant LATOYIA McCOLLUM (“MCCOLLUM”) was a resident of New Jersey who resided at a location in Union County (“Location 1”).

b. Maurice Mills (“Mills”), an individual separately charged in this District, was a resident of New York and New Jersey who resided at Location 1.

2. On or about October 6, 2020, Federal law enforcement officers executed a search at Location 1 pursuant to a court-authorized search warrant. Prior to the execution of the search, Mills had been charged in a Federal Criminal Complaint with wire fraud for fraudulently obtaining more than approximately \$400,000 in unemployment insurance benefits from the State of New York. These fraudulently obtained benefits were often provided

either: (a) on a credit/debit card; or (b) by wire transfer into a bank account, where a debit card could then be used to withdraw the money.

3. Upon entering Location 1, law enforcement officers observed defendant MCCOLLUM: (a) in the kitchen area next to a shredder that was on a counter; (b) placing what appeared to be a credit/debit card into the shredder; and (c) on a face-to-face communication on a handheld mobile device.

4. Law enforcement thereafter recovered from the shredder: (a) the shreds of what appeared to be a credit/debit card; and (b) approximately four credit/debit cards that had been placed into the shredder, but which had not been fully shredded. Law enforcement officers also recovered approximately four credit/debit cards that were on the counter next to the shredder.

5. After being read and waiving her *Miranda* rights, defendant MCCOLLUM stated, in substance and in part, that when law enforcement officers entered Location 1 she was on the phone with Mills who had instructed her to shred the credit/debit cards.

6. On or about October 6, 2020, in Union County, in the District of New Jersey and elsewhere, the defendant,

LATOYIA McCOLLUM,

did knowingly, intentionally, and corruptly alter, destroy, mutilate and conceal a record, document, and other object, and attempt to do so, with the intent to impair the object's integrity or availability for use in an official proceeding, and

otherwise obstruct and impede any official proceeding, and attempt to do so, as set forth in Paragraph 3 of this Information.

In violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 1512(c).

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "R A Honig", written over a horizontal line.

RACHAEL A. HONIG
ACTING UNITED STATES ATTORNEY