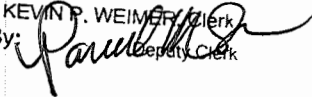


FILED IN OPEN COURT
U.S.D.C. - Atlanta

JAN 21 2022

By:  KEVIN P. WEIMER, Clerk
Deputy Clerk

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF GEORGIA
ATLANTA DIVISION

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

v.

RODRIQUEZ DEONTE REDDING
AKA RODRIGUEZ REDDING
AKA DREEK

Criminal Information

No. 1:22-CR-21-SCJ

THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY CHARGES THAT:

1. In or about April through June 2021, in the Northern District of Georgia and elsewhere, the Defendant,

RODRIQUEZ DEONTE REDDING

AKA RODRIGUEZ REDDING

AKA DREEK

aided and abetted by others known and unknown to the United States Attorney, knowingly devised, intended to devise, and participated in a scheme and artifice to defraud and to obtain money and property by means of materially false and fraudulent pretenses, representations, and promises, and by omission of material facts, and, with the intent to defraud, caused to be transmitted certain wire communications in interstate and foreign commerce for the purposes of executing the scheme, and knowingly did so while on pretrial release for pending criminal judicial proceedings in the United States District Court for the Northern District of Georgia.

Background

The Paycheck Protection Program

2. The Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (“CARES”) Act is a federal law enacted in or around March 2020 and designed to provide emergency financial assistance to the millions of Americans who are suffering the economic effects caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. One source of relief provided by the CARES Act was the authorization of up to \$349 billion in forgivable loans to small businesses, including sole proprietorships, for job retention and certain other expenses, through a program referred to as the Paycheck Protection Program (“PPP”). Congress has since authorized additional funding.

3. In order to obtain a PPP loan, a qualifying borrower must submit a PPP loan application, which is signed by an authorized representative of the business. The PPP loan application requires the borrower 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 borrower must state, among other things, its total amount of gross income from its 2019 or 2020 IRS Form 1040. This figure is used to calculate the amount of money the small business is eligible to receive under the PPP.

4. A PPP loan application and supporting documentation must be processed by a participating financial institution (the lender). If a PPP loan application is approved, the participating financial institution funds the PPP loan using its own monies, which are 100% guaranteed by the Small Business Administration

("SBA"). Data from the application, including information about the borrower and the total amount of the loan, is transmitted by the lender to the SBA in the course of processing the loan.

5. PPP loan proceeds must be used by the business only for business-related purposes. The PPP allows the interest and principal on the PPP loan to be entirely forgiven if the business spends the loan proceeds on the allowed expense items within a designated period of time after receiving the proceeds.

6. The PPP is overseen by the SBA, which is headquartered at 409 3rd Street SW, Washington, D.C. 20416, and has authority over all loans.

Relevant Entities

7. Financial Institution 1 is an SBA-approved lender headquartered in Coral Gables, Florida.

8. Financial Institution 2 is an SBA-approved lender headquartered in Los Angeles, California.

Release on Pending Drug Trafficking and Money Laundering Charges

9. On September 4, 2018, Defendant Redding was charged in a felony criminal indictment by a federal Grand Jury in the United States District Court for the Northern District of Georgia, case number 1:18-CR-344-SCJ-CMS, with conspiracy to possess with the intent to distribute cocaine and conspiracy to commit money laundering.

10. Defendant Redding was released pursuant to an order dated October 26, 2018, which included as a condition of release that Defendant Redding “must not violate federal, state, or local law while on release.” The order advised Defendant Redding that “While on release, if you commit a federal felony offense, the punishment is an additional prison term of not more than ten years. . . This sentence will be consecutive (i.e., in addition to) any other sentence you receive.” Defendant Redding signed the order, acknowledging, “I am aware of the conditions of release. I promise to obey all conditions of release, to appear as directed and to surrender for service of any sentence imposed. I am aware of the penalties and sanctions set forth above.”

11. In April through June 2021, Defendant Redding was on pretrial release pursuant to that order.

Execution of the Scheme - PPP Loan #1

12. On or about April 22, 2021, for the purpose of executing and attempting to execute the wire fraud scheme, Defendant Redding electronically signed and submitted to Financial Institution 1, via the internet, a PPP loan application which requested a loan in the amount of \$20,833 to be used for payroll costs, and which falsely represented that Defendant Redding (1) had gross income in 2020 of \$110,691 and (2) was not presently subject to criminal charges in a felony indictment. However, in reality, Defendant Redding did not have gross income of that amount in 2020 and was at the time on pretrial release for a pending

federal felony indictment charging him with conspiracy to possess with intent to distribute cocaine and conspiracy to commit money laundering.

13. On or about April 29, 2021, Defendant Redding electronically signed and submitted to Financial Institution 1, via the internet, a U.S. Small Business Administration Note for SBA Loan Number *****8900 in the amount of \$20,833.

14. On or about May 5, 2021, as a result of the loan application and note signed by Defendant Redding, Financial Institution 1 transferred \$20,833 into Defendant Redding's checking account.

15. Instead of spending these PPP funds on business expenses, Defendant Redding used them to purchase luxury personal items and transferred portions of the funds to family members and acquaintances.

Execution of the Scheme - PPP Loan #2

16. On or about May 31, 2021, for the purpose of executing and attempting to execute the wire fraud scheme, Defendant Redding electronically signed and submitted to Financial Institution 2, via the internet, a PPP loan application which requested a loan in the amount of \$20,833 to be used for payroll costs, and which falsely represented that Defendant Redding (1) had gross income in 2020 of \$110,691 and (2) was not presently subject to criminal charges in a felony indictment. However, in reality, Defendant Redding did not have gross income of that amount in 2020 and was at the time on pretrial release for a pending

federal felony indictment charging him with conspiracy to possess with intent to distribute cocaine and conspiracy to commit money laundering.

17. That same day, Defendant Redding electronically signed and submitted to Financial Institution 2, via the internet, a Note for SBA Loan Number *****9008 in the amount of \$20,833.

18. On or about June 14, 2021, as a result of the loan application and note signed by Defendant Redding, Financial Institution 2 transferred \$20,833 into Defendant Redding's checking account.

19. Instead of spending these PPP funds on business expenses, Defendant Redding used them to purchase luxury personal items and transferred portions of the funds to family members and acquaintances.

20. Defendant Redding committed this wire fraud scheme while on pretrial release pursuant to an order dated October 26, 2018, from the United States District Court for the Northern District of Georgia, Case No. 1:18-CR-344-SCJ-CMS, which order notified Defendant Redding of the potential effects of committing an offense while on pretrial release.

All in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 1343, Section 3147(1), and Section 2.

Forfeiture

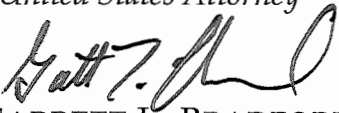
21. Upon conviction of the wire fraud offense alleged in this Information, the Defendant, Rodriquez Deonte Redding aka Rodriguez Redding aka Dreek, shall forfeit to the United States, pursuant to Title 18, United States Code, Section 982(a)(2), any property, real or personal, constituting or derived from proceeds obtained, directly or indirectly, as a result of the violation, including, but not limited to, the following:

- a. MONEY JUDGMENT: A sum of money in United States currency representing the total amount of money involved in the offense(s) of conviction.

22. If, as a result of any act or omission of the Defendant, any property subject to forfeiture, (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, the United States intends, pursuant to Title 21,

United States Code, Section 853(p), as incorporated by Title 18, United States Code, Section 982(b), to seek forfeiture of any other property of the Defendant up to the value of the forfeitable property described above.

KURT R. ERSKINE
United States Attorney



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