

STATE GRAND JURY OF SOUTH CAROLINA

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA)	Case No. 2022-GS-47-33
)	
v.)	INDICTMENT FOR OBTAINING
)	PROPERTY BY FALSE PRETENSES,
JERRY K. RIVERS)	MONEY LAUNDERING, COMPUTER
)	CRIME, AND FALSE STATEMENT OR
Defendant.)	MISREPRESENTATION (INSURANCE
)	FRAUD), AND FINANCIAL IDENTITY
)	FRAUD
)	

At a session of the State Grand Jury of South Carolina, convened in Columbia, South Carolina, on November 17, 2022, the State Grand Jurors present upon their oath and charge as follows:

COUNT ONE
OBTAINING SIGNATURE OR PROPERTY BY FALSE PRETENSES
VALUE \$10,000 OR MORE
S.C. Code Ann. § 16-13-240(1)

That JERRY K. RIVERS did, in Colleton County, on or about April 18, 2021, by false pretenses or representation obtain the signature of a person to a written instrument and money or other property from another person, with the intent to cheat or defraud that person of money or property, to wit:

RIVERS fraudulently obtained \$20,833 in federal funds distributed under the Paycheck Protection Program by falsely representing himself to be a qualified business and sole proprietor of a "Beauty Salon" (NAICS Code 812112). No such business existed, nor had RIVERS ever independently operated any such business. RIVERS then converted the funds provided through the program through online banking transfers, debit card transactions, and withdrawals.

All in violation of section 16-13-240 of the South Carolina Code of Laws, and such conduct involving a violation of the South Carolina Anti-Money Laundering Act, or a crime related to a violation of the Anti-Money Laundering Act; and such conduct also involving a crime involving computer crimes, or a conspiracy or solicitation to commit a crime involving computer crimes; and such conduct also involving and arising out of and in connection with a crime involving narcotics, dangerous drugs, or controlled substances, and such crime being of a multi-county nature and having transpired and having significance in more than one county in this state; and such conduct having not been authorized by law.

Against the peace and dignity of this State and contrary to the law in such case made and provided.

**COUNT TWO
COMPUTER CRIME
VALUE MORE THAN \$10,000
S.C. Code Ann. § 16-16-20**

That JERRY K. RIVERS, in Colleton County, from on or about April 18, 2021, through on or about May 6, 2021, did wilfully, knowingly, maliciously, and without authorization and for an unauthorized purpose, directly or indirectly access or cause to be accessed a computer, computer system, or computer network for the purpose of: devising or executing a scheme or artifice to defraud; obtaining money, property, or services by means of false or fraudulent pretenses, representations, promises; and committing any crime; to wit:

RIVERS fraudulently obtained \$20,833 in federal funds distributed under the Paycheck Protection Program through an online application falsely representing himself

to be a qualified business and sole proprietor of a "Beauty Salon" (NAICS Code 812112). No such business existed, nor had RIVERS ever independently operated any such business. RIVERS then converted the funds provided through the program through online banking transfers, debit card transactions, and withdrawals.

All in violation of section 16-16-20 of the South Carolina Code of Laws, and such conduct involving a violation of the South Carolina Anti-Money Laundering Act, or a crime related to a violation of the Anti-Money Laundering Act; and such conduct also involving a crime involving computer crimes, or a conspiracy or solicitation to commit a crime involving computer crimes; and such conduct also involving and arising out of and in connection with a crime involving narcotics, dangerous drugs, or controlled substances, and such crime being of a multi-county nature and having transpired and having significance in more than one county in this state; and such conduct having not been authorized by law.

Against the peace and dignity of this State and contrary to the law in such case made and provided.

**COUNT THREE
OBTAINING SIGNATURE OR PROPERTY BY FALSE PRETENSES
VALUE \$10,000 OR MORE
S.C. Code Ann. § 16-13-240(1)**

That JERRY K. RIVERS did, in Colleton County, on or about April 23, 2021, by false pretenses or representation obtain the signature of a person to a written instrument and money or other property from another person, with the intent to cheat or defraud that person of money or property, to wit:

RIVERS fraudulently applied for and obtained a second draw of \$20,833 in federal

funds distributed under the Paycheck Protection Program by falsely representing himself to be a qualified business and sole proprietor of a "Beauty Salon" (NAICS Code 812112). No such business existed, nor had RIVERS ever independently operated any such business. RIVERS then converted the funds provided through the program through online banking transfers, debit card transactions, and withdrawals.

All in violation of section 16-13-240 of the South Carolina Code of Laws, and such conduct involving a violation of the South Carolina Anti-Money Laundering Act, or a crime related to a violation of the Anti-Money Laundering Act; and such conduct also involving a crime involving computer crimes, or a conspiracy or solicitation to commit a crime involving computer crimes; and such conduct also involving and arising out of and in connection with a crime involving narcotics, dangerous drugs, or controlled substances, and such crime being of a multi-county nature and having transpired and having significance in more than one county in this state; and such conduct having not been authorized by law.

Against the peace and dignity of this State and contrary to the law in such case made and provided.

**COUNT FOUR
COMPUTER CRIME
VALUE MORE THAN \$10,000
S.C. Code Ann. § 16-16-20**

That JERRY K. RIVERS, in Colleton County, from on or about April 23, 2021, through on or about May 28, 2021, did wilfully, knowingly, maliciously, and without authorization and for an unauthorized purpose, directly or indirectly access or cause to be accessed a computer, computer system, or computer network for the purpose of:

devising or executing a scheme or artifice to defraud; obtaining money, property, or services by means of false or fraudulent pretenses, representations, promises; and committing any crime; to wit:

RIVERS fraudulently submitted an online application and obtained a second draw of \$20,833 in federal funds distributed under the Paycheck Protection Program by falsely representing himself to be a qualified business and sole proprietor of a "Beauty Salon" (NAICS Code 812112). No such business existed, nor had RIVERS ever independently operated any such business. RIVERS then converted the funds provided through the program through online banking transfers, debit card transactions, and withdrawals.

All in violation of section 16-16-20 of the South Carolina Code of Laws, and such conduct involving a violation of the South Carolina Anti-Money Laundering Act, or a crime related to a violation of the Anti-Money Laundering Act; and such conduct also involving a crime involving computer crimes, or a conspiracy or solicitation to commit a crime involving computer crimes; and such conduct also involving and arising out of and in connection with a crime involving narcotics, dangerous drugs, or controlled substances, and such crime being of a multi-county nature and having transpired and having significance in more than one county in this state; and such conduct having not been authorized by law.

Against the peace and dignity of this State and contrary to the law in such case made and provided.

**COUNT FIVE
MONEY LAUNDERING
VALUE \$20,000 OR MORE, BUT LESS THAN \$100,000
S.C. Code Ann. § 35-11-740**

That JERRY K. RIVERS did, in Colleton County, from on or about April 18, 2021, through on or about May 28, 2021, did conduct financial transactions with property that he knew was the proceeds of, or was derived directly or indirectly from the proceeds of, unlawful activity, and he conducted these transactions with the intent to promote the carrying on of unlawful activity, and while knowing that the transactions were designed in whole or in part to conceal or disguise the nature, location, sources, ownership, or control of the proceeds of unlawful activity, to wit:

RIVERS fraudulently obtained \$41,666 in federal funds distributed under the Paycheck Protection Program by falsely representing himself to be a qualified business and sole proprietor of a "Beauty Salon" (NAICS Code 812112). No such business existed, nor had RIVERS ever independently operated any such business. RIVERS then converted the funds provided through the program through online banking transfers, debit card transactions, and withdrawals.

All in violation of section 35-11-740 of the South Carolina Code of Laws, and such conduct involving a violation of the South Carolina Anti-Money Laundering Act, or a crime related to a violation of the Anti-Money Laundering Act; and such conduct also involving a crime involving computer crimes, or a conspiracy or solicitation to commit a crime involving computer crimes; and such conduct also involving and arising out of and in connection with a crime involving narcotics, dangerous drugs, or controlled substances, and such crime being of a multi-county nature and having transpired and having significance in more than one county in this state; and such conduct having not been

authorized by law.

Against the peace and dignity of this State and contrary to the law in such case made and provided.

**COUNT SIX
FALSE STATEMENT OR MISREPRESENTATION (INSURANCE FRAUD)
VALUE \$10,000 OR MORE
S.C. Code Ann. § 38-55-540(A)(3)**

That JERRY K. RIVERS did, in Colleton County, from on or about May 2020 through on or about June 2021, with an intent to injure, defraud, and deceive, knowingly make a false statement and misrepresentation, with the intent of obtaining an undeserved economic advantage and benefit, in connection with an insurance transaction; to wit:

RIVERS fraudulently obtained \$27,453 in unemployment insurance from the South Carolina Department of Employment and Workforce by representing himself to have lost employment as a self-employed dry wall finisher due to the Covid pandemic. No such business existed, nor had RIVERS ever independently operated any such ongoing concern. RIVERS received and was awarded insurance benefits enhanced by both state and federal funds available during the extraordinary circumstances of the pandemic. RIVERS converted the funds for various personal expenses through electronic peer to peer transfers and online banking transfers.

All in violation of section 38-55-540 of the South Carolina Code of Laws, and such conduct involving a violation of the South Carolina Anti-Money Laundering Act, or a crime related to a violation of the Anti-Money Laundering Act; and such conduct also involving a crime involving computer crimes, or a conspiracy or solicitation to commit a crime involving computer crimes; and such conduct also involving and arising out of and in

connection with a crime involving narcotics, dangerous drugs, or controlled substances, and such crime being of a multi-county nature and having transpired and having significance in more than one county in this state; and such conduct having not been authorized by law.

Against the peace and dignity of this State and contrary to the law in such case made and provided.

**COUNT SEVEN
COMPUTER CRIME
VALUE MORE THAN \$10,000
S.C. Code Ann. § 16-16-20**

That JERRY K. RIVERS, in Colleton County, from on or about May 2020, through on or about June 2021, did wilfully, knowingly, maliciously, and without authorization and for an unauthorized purpose, directly or indirectly access or cause to be accessed a computer, computer system, or computer network for the purpose of: devising or executing a scheme or artifice to defraud; obtaining money, property, or services by means of false or fraudulent pretenses, representations, promises; and committing any crime; to wit:

With an online application, RIVERS fraudulently obtained \$27,453 in unemployment insurance from the South Carolina Department of Employment and Workforce by representing himself to have lost employment as a self-employed dry wall finisher due to the Covid pandemic. No such business existed, nor had RIVERS ever independently operated any such ongoing concern. RIVERS received and was awarded insurance benefits enhanced by both state and federal funds available during the extraordinary circumstances of the pandemic. RIVERS converted the funds for various

personal expenses through electronic peer to peer transfers and online banking transfers.

All in violation of section 16-16-20 of the South Carolina Code of Laws, and such conduct involving a violation of the South Carolina Anti-Money Laundering Act, or a crime related to a violation of the Anti-Money Laundering Act; and such conduct also involving a crime involving computer crimes, or a conspiracy or solicitation to commit a crime involving computer crimes; and such conduct also involving and arising out of and in connection with a crime involving narcotics, dangerous drugs, or controlled substances, and such crime being of a multi-county nature and having transpired and having significance in more than one county in this state; and such conduct having not been authorized by law.

Against the peace and dignity of this State and contrary to the law in such case made and provided.

COUNT EIGHT
MONEY LAUNDERING
VALUE \$20,000 OR MORE, BUT LESS THAN \$100,000
S.C. Code Ann. § 35-11-740

That JERRY K. RIVERS did, in Colleton County, from on or about May 13, 2020, through on or about May 12, 2021, did conduct financial transactions with property that he knew was the proceeds of, or was derived directly or indirectly from the proceeds of, unlawful activity, and he conducted these transactions with the intent to promote the carrying on of unlawful activity, and while knowing that the transactions were designed in whole or in part to conceal or disguise the nature, location, sources, ownership, or control of the proceeds of unlawful activity, to wit:

RIVERS fraudulently obtained \$26,160 in unemployment insurance from the South

Carolina Department of Employment and Workforce by representing himself to have lost employment as a self-employed dry wall finisher due to the Covid pandemic. No such business existed, nor had RIVERS ever independently operated any such ongoing concern. RIVERS received and was awarded insurance benefits enhanced by both state and federal funds available during the extraordinary circumstances of the pandemic. RIVERS converted the funds for various personal expenses through electronic peer to peer transfers and online banking transfers.

All in violation of section 35-11-740 of the South Carolina Code of Laws, and such conduct involving a violation of the South Carolina Anti-Money Laundering Act, or a crime related to a violation of the Anti-Money Laundering Act; and such conduct also involving a crime involving computer crimes, or a conspiracy or solicitation to commit a crime involving computer crimes; and such conduct also involving and arising out of and in connection with a crime involving narcotics, dangerous drugs, or controlled substances, and such crime being of a multi-county nature and having transpired and having significance in more than one county in this state; and such conduct having not been authorized by law.

Against the peace and dignity of this State and contrary to the law in such case made and provided.

**COUNT NINE
MONEY LAUNDERING
VALUE \$300 OR MORE, BUT LESS THAN \$20,000
S.C. Code Ann. § 35-11-740**

That JERRY K. RIVERS did, in Colleton County, from on or about May 13, 2021, through on or about August 31, 2021, did conduct financial transactions with property that

he knew was the proceeds of, or was derived directly or indirectly from the proceeds of, unlawful activity, and he conducted these transactions with the intent to promote the carrying on of unlawful activity, and while knowing that the transactions were designed in whole or in part to conceal or disguise the nature, location, sources, ownership, or control of the proceeds of unlawful activity, to wit:

RIVERS fraudulently obtained \$1,293 in unemployment insurance from the South Carolina Department of Employment and Workforce by representing himself to have lost employment as a self-employed dry wall finisher due to the SARS-COV-2 pandemic. No such business existed, nor had RIVERS ever independently operated any such ongoing concern. RIVERS received and was awarded insurance benefits enhanced by both state and federal funds available during the extraordinary circumstances of the pandemic. RIVERS converted the funds for various personal expenses through electronic peer to peer transfers.

All in violation of section 35-11-740 of the South Carolina Code of Laws, and such conduct involving a violation of the South Carolina Anti-Money Laundering Act, or a crime related to a violation of the Anti-Money Laundering Act; and such conduct also involving a crime involving computer crimes, or a conspiracy or solicitation to commit a crime involving computer crimes; and such conduct also involving and arising out of and in connection with a crime involving narcotics, dangerous drugs, or controlled substances, and such crime being of a multi-county nature and having transpired and having significance in more than one county in this state; and such conduct having not been authorized by law.

Against the peace and dignity of this State and contrary to the law in such case made and provided.

**COUNT TEN
FALSE STATEMENT OR MISREPRESENTATION (INSURANCE FRAUD)
VALUE \$10,000 OR MORE
S.C. Code Ann. § 38-55-540(A)(3)**

That JERRY K. RIVERS did, in Colleton County, from on or about July 2020 through on or about September 2020, with an intent to injure, defraud, and deceive, knowingly make a false statement and misrepresentation, with the intent of obtaining an undeserved economic advantage and benefit, in connection with an insurance transaction; to wit:

RIVERS fraudulently obtained \$12,558 in unemployment insurance from the South Carolina Department of Employment and Workforce ("SCDEW") by applying for benefits in the name of an individual unaware of RIVERS' use of her identity. RIVERS falsely claimed this individual lost employment as a self-employed hair dresser due to the Covid pandemic. Neither RIVERS nor the individual were engaged in the business of hair dressing, nor had RIVERS or the individual ever independently operated any such ongoing concern. From this scheme, RIVERS received a check issued by SCDEW meant as unemployment insurance for the benefit of this individual. RIVERS converted the funds into untraceable cash, transferred money into other accounts, and otherwise used the funds for various personal expenses.

All in violation of section 38-55-540 of the South Carolina Code of Laws, and such conduct involving a violation of the South Carolina Anti-Money Laundering Act, or a crime related to a violation of the Anti-Money Laundering Act; and such conduct also involving

a crime involving computer crimes, or a conspiracy or solicitation to commit a crime involving computer crimes; and such conduct also involving and arising out of and in connection with a crime involving narcotics, dangerous drugs, or controlled substances, and such crime being of a multi-county nature and having transpired and having significance in more than one county in this state; and such conduct having not been authorized by law.

Against the peace and dignity of this State and contrary to the law in such case made and provided.

**COUNT ELEVEN
FINANCIAL IDENTITY FRAUD
S.C. Code Ann. § 16-13-510(B)**

That JERRY K. RIVERS did, in Colleton County, on or about July 2, 2020, without authorization or permission, knowingly obtain and use the personal identifying information of another individual to access their financial resources, and to avoid identification by a governmental agency, in order to devise a scheme and artifice to defraud, and to obtain money by means of false and fraudulent pretenses and promises; to wit:

RIVERS used the personal identifying information of the victim Yolanda Lisbon without her permission and assistance to apply for and obtain unemployment insurance benefits in the victim's name from the South Carolina Department of Employment and Workforce. RIVERS had the benefits he fraudulently obtained deposited into an account in his name, and he then converted the funds to his personal use.

All in violation of section 16-13-510 of the South Carolina Code of Laws, and such conduct involving a violation of the South Carolina Anti-Money Laundering Act, or a crime

related to a violation of the Anti-Money Laundering Act; and such conduct also involving a crime involving computer crimes, or a conspiracy or solicitation to commit a crime involving computer crimes; and such conduct also involving and arising out of and in connection with a crime involving narcotics, dangerous drugs, or controlled substances, and such crime being of a multi-county nature and having transpired and having significance in more than one county in this state; and such conduct having not been authorized by law.

Against the peace and dignity of this State and contrary to the law in such case made and provided.

**COUNT TWELVE
COMPUTER CRIME
VALUE MORE THAN \$10,000
S.C. Code Ann. § 16-16-20**

That JERRY K. RIVERS, in Colleton County, from on or about July 2020, through on or about September 2020, did wilfully, knowingly, maliciously, and without authorization and for an unauthorized purpose, directly or indirectly access or cause to be accessed a computer, computer system, or computer network for the purpose of: devising or executing a scheme or artifice to defraud; obtaining money, property, or services by means of false or fraudulent pretenses, representations, promises; and committing any crime; to wit:

RIVERS fraudulently obtained \$12,558 in unemployment insurance from the South Carolina Department of Employment and Workforce ("SCDEW") by completing an online application for benefits in the name of an individual unaware of RIVERS' use of her identity. RIVERS falsely claimed this individual lost employment as a self-employed hair

dresser due to the Covid pandemic. Neither RIVERS nor the individual were engaged in the business of hair dressing, nor had RIVERS or the individual ever independently operated any such ongoing concern. From this scheme, RIVERS received a check issued by SCDEW meant as unemployment insurance for the benefit of this individual. RIVERS converted the funds into untraceable cash, transferred money into other accounts, and otherwise used the funds for various personal expenses.

All in violation of section 16-16-20 of the South Carolina Code of Laws, and such conduct involving a violation of the South Carolina Anti-Money Laundering Act, or a crime related to a violation of the Anti-Money Laundering Act; and such conduct also involving a crime involving computer crimes, or a conspiracy or solicitation to commit a crime involving computer crimes; and such conduct also involving and arising out of and in connection with a crime involving narcotics, dangerous drugs, or controlled substances, and such crime being of a multi-county nature and having transpired and having significance in more than one county in this state; and such conduct having not been authorized by law.

Against the peace and dignity of this State and contrary to the law in such case made and provided.

**COUNT THIRTEEN
MONEY LAUNDERING
VALUE \$300 OR MORE, BUT LESS THAN \$20,000
S.C. Code Ann. § 35-11-740**

That JERRY K. RIVERS did, in Colleton County, from on or about July 2020, through on or about September 2020, did conduct financial transactions with property that he knew was the proceeds of, or was derived directly or indirectly from the proceeds of,

unlawful activity, and he conducted these transactions with the intent to promote the carrying on of unlawful activity, and while knowing that the transactions were designed in whole or in part to conceal or disguise the nature, location, sources, ownership, or control of the proceeds of unlawful activity, to wit:

RIVERS fraudulently obtained \$12,558 in unemployment insurance from the South Carolina Department of Employment and Workforce ("SCDEW") by applying for benefits in the name of an individual unaware of RIVERS' use of her identity. RIVERS falsely claimed this individual lost employment as a self-employed hair dresser due to the Covid pandemic. Neither RIVERS nor the individual were engaged in the business of hair dressing, nor had RIVERS or the individual ever independently operated any such ongoing concern. From this scheme, RIVERS received a check issued by SCDEW meant as unemployment insurance for the benefit of this individual. RIVERS converted the funds into untraceable cash, transferred money into other accounts, and otherwise used the funds for various personal expenses.

All in violation of section 35-11-740 of the South Carolina Code of Laws, and such conduct involving a violation of the South Carolina Anti-Money Laundering Act, or a crime related to a violation of the Anti-Money Laundering Act; and such conduct also involving a crime involving computer crimes, or a conspiracy or solicitation to commit a crime involving computer crimes; and such conduct also involving and arising out of and in connection with a crime involving narcotics, dangerous drugs, or controlled substances, and such crime being of a multi-county nature and having transpired and having significance in more than one county in this state; and such conduct having not been authorized by law.

Against the peace and dignity of this State and contrary to the law in such case made and provided.

A True Bill



FOREPERSON

Alan Wilson

ALAN WILSON (scw/jejj)
ATTORNEY GENERAL