

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF INDIANA  
INDIANAPOLIS DIVISION

**FILED**

MAR 01 2022

U.S. CLERK'S OFFICE  
INDIANAPOLIS, INDIANA

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,	)	
	)	
Plaintiff,	)	
	)	
v.	)	CAUSE NO. 1:22-cr-00019-SEB-MG
	)	
JORDAN MCPHEARSON, and	)	-01
LAVARIS YARBROUGH,	)	-02
	)	
Defendants.	)	

**SUPERSEDING INDICTMENT**

The Grand Jury charges that:

General Allegations

At times material to this Indictment:

1. The New Augusta Post Office was located at 8401 Moller Road Indianapolis, Indiana, within the Southern District of Indiana.
2. James Lancaster was a resident of Indianapolis, Indiana and a Manager of Customer Service at the New Augusta Post Office.
3. In his position as Manager of Customer Service, Lancaster had access to the Post Office's incoming and outgoing mail.
4. JORDAN MCPHEARSON was a resident of Illinois.
5. LAVARIS YARBROUGH was a resident of Illinois.
6. "Financial institution" means an institution whose deposits are insured by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation or the National Credit Union Administration; the Federal Reserve or a member of the Federal Reserve including any Federal Reserve Bank; a member of

the Federal home loan bank system and any home loan bank; any institution of the Farm Credit System; a broker dealer registered with the Securities and Exchange Commission; the Securities Investor Protection Corporation; a branch or agency of a foreign bank; and an organization operating under section 25 or section 25(a) of the Federal Reserve Act.

COUNT 1  
Conspiracy to Commit Bank Fraud  
18 U.S.C. § 1349

7. Paragraphs 1 through 6 are incorporated by reference.

8. Beginning on or before May 11, 2020, and continuing to on or about June 23, 2021, within the Southern District of Indiana and elsewhere, the Defendants,

JORDAN MCPHEARSON and  
LAVARIS YARBROUGH

did knowingly and willfully combine, conspire, confederate, and agree with James Lancaster and others unknown to the Grand Jury, to violate Title 18, United States Code, Section 1344(2) (“Bank Fraud”). That is, they knowingly and willfully executed, and attempted to execute, a scheme or artifice to obtain monies, funds, credits, assets, securities, or other property owned by, and under the custody or control of, the financial institution, by means of false and fraudulent pretenses, representations, and promises.

Purpose of the Conspiracy

9. It was the purpose of the conspiracy for Lancaster, MCPHEARSON, and YARBROUGH to unlawfully enrich themselves by stealing checks from the mail, altering them, and negotiating them for their personal benefit.

Manner and Means

10. It was part of the conspiracy and scheme that Lancaster used his position at the New Augusta Post Office and his access to the mail to steal envelopes and parcels containing

checks or other forms of payment (collectively “checks”) that had been deposited into the mail stream by businesses.

11. Lancaster communicated with MCPHEARSON to arrange a meeting with MCPHEARSON or one of MCPHEARSON’s associates. At those meetings, Lancaster gave MCPHEARSON or his associate the stolen checks. Occasionally, Lancaster was provided cash in exchange for the checks, which Lancaster later spent or deposited in his bank account.

12. MCPHEARSON then altered the checks he received from Lancaster, usually altering the “pay to the order of” line to make the checks payable to someone other than the intended payee.

13. MCPHEARSON then negotiated the checks by depositing the checks into an accomplice’s account and then withdrawing some of the deposited money. As a result, funds were removed from the business’s account whose check was stolen and were deposited into an account belonging to someone other than the intended payee.

14. On multiple occasions, MCPHEARSON provided the stolen checks to YARBROUGH. YARBROUGH would then negotiate the stolen checks using the same methods as MCPHEARSON.

15. Throughout the course of the conspiracy, Lancaster stole over 258 pieces of U.S. Mail from the New Augusta Post Office that contained checks placed into the mail by over 50 local businesses, including the checks described in Counts 2 through 5. He provided all of those stolen checks to MCPHEARSON. In total, the value of the stolen checks was approximately \$1.7 million.

All of which is in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 1349.

COUNTS 2-3  
Bank Fraud  
18 U.S.C. §§ 1344 and 2

16. Paragraphs 1 through 15 are incorporated by reference.

17. On or about the dates described in the chart below, within the Southern District of Indiana and elsewhere, the Defendants,

JORDAN MCPHEARSON and  
LAVARIS YARBROUGH

did knowingly and willfully execute, attempt to execute, and aid and abet another in the execution of a scheme or artifice to defraud a financial institution and to obtain monies, funds, credits, assets, securities, or other property owned by, and under the custody or control of, the financial institution, by means of false and fraudulent pretenses, representations, and promises as described in each Count listed below:

Count	Approximate Date	Victim	Check No.	Amount
2	January 15, 2021	Company A	#9202	\$3,588
3	January 15, 2021	Company A	#9183	\$8,961.57

Each Count of which is a violation of Title 18, United States Code, Sections 1344 and 2.

COUNTS 4-5  
Bank Fraud  
18 U.S.C. § 1344

18. Paragraphs 1 through 15 are incorporated by reference.

19. On or about the dates described in the chart below, within the Southern District of Indiana and elsewhere, the Defendant,

JORDAN MCPHEARSON,

did knowingly and willfully execute, and attempt to execute, a scheme or artifice to defraud a financial institution and to obtain monies, funds, credits, assets, securities, or other property owned by, and under the custody or control of, the financial institution, by means of false and fraudulent pretenses, representations, and promises as follows in each Count listed below:

Count	Approximate Date	Victim	Check No.	Amount
4	December 15, 2020	Company B	#5539	\$11,029.20
5	January 11, 2021	Company A	#9200	\$4,702.33

Each Count of which is a violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 1344.

COUNT 6  
Bank Fraud  
18 U.S.C. § 1344

20. Paragraphs 1 through 15 are incorporated by reference.

21. Beginning on or before May 11, 2020, and continuing to on or about June 23, 2021, as specifically described below, within the Southern District of Indiana and elsewhere, the Defendant,

JORDAN MCPHEARSON

did knowingly and willfully execute, and attempt to execute, a scheme or artifice to defraud a financial institution and to obtain monies, funds, credits, assets, securities, or other property owned by, and under the custody or control of, the financial institution, by means of false and fraudulent pretenses, representations, and promises.

22. MCPHEARSON took the banking information (i.e., the account number and routing number) found on the bottom of the stolen checks he received. He then created new counterfeit checks using this banking information.

23. He sold the counterfeit checks to accomplices after inserting the accomplice's name in the "payee" field of the checks.

24. When negotiated, these checks drew upon funds in a victim-business's bank account to pay the accomplice as the "payee."

25. MCPHEARSON created more than 250 counterfeit checks using checks stolen from the New Augusta Post Office. In total, the value of the stolen checks was approximately \$565,000.

All of which is a violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 1344.

FORFEITURE

24. Pursuant to Federal Rule of Criminal Pursuant to Federal Rule of Criminal Procedure 32.2, the United States hereby provides notice that it will seek forfeiture of property pursuant to Title 18, United States Code, Sections 981(a)(1)(C) and 982(a)(2), and Title 28, United States Code, Section 2461.

25. If convicted of one or more of the offenses set forth in the Indictment, the Defendants, MCPHEARSON and YARBROUGH shall forfeit to the United States all right, title and interest of:

- a. any personal property used or intended to be used to commit the offense;
- b. any property, real or personal, involved in these offenses, or any property traceable to such property; and
- c. any property constituting or derived from proceeds MCPHEARSON and YARBROUGH obtained directly or indirectly as a result of the offense.

26. Pursuant to Title 21, United States Code, Section 853(p), as incorporated by Title 28, United States Code, Sections 982(b) and Title 28, United States Code, Section 2461(c), the court shall order the forfeiture of any other property of MCPHEARSON or YARBROUGH, up to the value of any property described herein if, by any act or omission of MCPHEARSON or YARBROUGH, the property described herein, or any portion thereof:

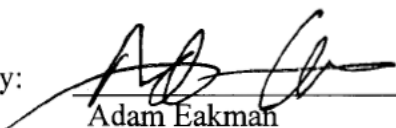
- a. cannot be located upon the exercise of due diligence;
- b. has been transferred or sold to, or deposited with, a third party;
- c. has been placed beyond the jurisdiction of the Court;
- d. has been substantially diminished in value; or
- e. has been commingled with other property which cannot be divided without difficulty.

27. In keeping with the foregoing, it is the intent of the United States, pursuant to Title 21, United States Code, Section 853(p), to seek forfeiture of any other property of MCPHEARSON and YARBROUGH up to the value of all forfeitable property as described above.

A TRUE BILL:

  
FOREPERSON 

ZACHARY A. MYERS  
United States Attorney

By:   
Adam Eakman  
Assistant United States Attorney  
NJL