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CLERK US DISTRICT COURT
DISTRICT OF ARIZONA

CR22-00523 TUC-RCC(JR)

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT

FOR THE DISTRICT OF ARIZONA

VICTIM CASE

United States of America,

Plaintiff,

vs.

Sherwayne Benjamin Bellinfantie

A.K.A. "Ice Man," "Terry Sweeney,"

Defendant.

INDICTMENT

Violations:

18 U.S.C. §1349
(Conspiracy to Commit Mail and
Wire Fraud)
Count 1

18 U.S.C. §1956(h)
(Conspiracy to Commit Money
Laundering)
Count 2

18 U.S.C. §§981(a)(1)(C), 982(a)(1),
982(a)(8); 21 U.S.C. §2461(c)
Forfeiture Allegation

THE GRAND JURY CHARGES:

Under Seal

Count 1

Conspiracy to Commit Mail Fraud and Wire Fraud

[18 U.S.C. § 1349]

1. From a time unknown but at least beginning in December, 2015 through January, 2019, in the District of Arizona, and elsewhere, the defendant, Sherwayne Benjamin Bellinfantie A.K.A "Ice Man" and "Terry Sweeney" (hereinafter referred to as BELLINFANTIE) and others, known and unknown to the grand jury, knowingly and voluntarily did unlawfully combine, conspire, confederate and agree

1 together with each other to knowingly execute and attempt to execute a scheme or
2 artifice and a scheme or plan to obtain money or property by means of material false
3 and fraudulent representations and promises, in violation of Title 18, United States
4 Code, Section 1341 (Mail Fraud) and Title 18, United States Code, Section 1343
5 (Wire Fraud).

6 **Manner/Means of the Conspiracy/Scheme to Defraud**

7 2. The co-conspirators engaged in an ongoing Romance/Sweepstakes
8 lottery fraud scheme that targeted victim B.J. and others. At the beginning of the
9 fraud scheme, victim B.J. was an elderly, 85-year-old resident of Vail, Arizona. In
10 furtherance of the fraud scheme, the co-conspirators falsely represented to B.J. that
11 she had won a lottery or other prize in order to induce B.J. to send money that would
12 purportedly be used to pay "taxes" or other "fees." In reality, the co-conspirators
13 merely made these false and fraudulent representations with the intent to defraud
14 solely to obtain the victim's money and without any intent to provide any prize
15 winnings. BELLINFANTIE, using the fictitious name "Terry Sweeney," further
16 deceived B.J. by leading her to believe she was engaged in a romantic relationship.
17 These acts were conducted by the co-conspirators for the purpose of defrauding the
18 victim out of her money and to further the lottery fraud scheme. At times, and in
19 furtherance of the fraud scheme, a co-conspirator (charged elsewhere) would send
20 flowers to the victim's residence. The flower deliveries contained love messages.
21 This co-conspirator performed such actions in furtherance of the romance/lottery
22 fraud conspiracy and at the direction of the defendant/co-conspirator
23 BELLINFANTIE. As a result of the fraud scheme, victim B.J. lost over \$400,000.

24 3. As an essential part of the scheme to defraud, and in furtherance of the
25 conspiracy, the co-conspirators knowingly caused to be deposited any item or thing
26 to be sent or delivered by a private or commercial interstate carrier and delivered by
27 such carrier according to the directions thereon. As an essential part of the scheme
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1 to defraud, and in furtherance of the conspiracy, the co-conspirators further
2 knowingly caused to be used at least one wire communication that traveled in
3 interstate or foreign commerce.

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

5 **Count 2**

6 **Conspiracy to Commit Money Laundering**

7 **[Title 18 U.S.C. § 1956(h)]**

8 4. The factual allegations in paragraphs one through three of this
9 Indictment are re-alleged and incorporated by reference as if fully set forth herein.

10 5. From a time unknown through at least approximately January, 2019,
11 within the District of Arizona and elsewhere, defendant BELLINFANTIE, and
12 others known and unknown to the grand jury, did knowingly and willfully combine
13 conspire and agree together, with each other and others to commit the following
14 offense against the United States:

15 **Object of the Conspiracy**

16 Concealment money laundering in violation of Title 18, United States
17 Code, § 1956(a)(1)(B)(i).

18 6. The manner and means employed by the defendant BELLINFANTIE
19 and others in the conspiracy, to effect the object of the conspiracy, were as follows:

20 a. knowing that the property involved in the financial transactions
21 represented the proceeds of some form of unlawful activity, the defendant and
22 at least one or more co-conspirators knowingly conducted and knowingly
23 caused to be conducted, financial transactions, which involved the proceeds
24 of specified unlawful activity, that is, Mail and Wire Fraud, in violation of
25 Title 18 U.S.C. §§ 1341 and 1343, knowing that the transactions were
26 designed in whole or in part to conceal and disguise the nature, location,
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1 source, ownership and the control of the proceeds of some form of unlawful
2 activity in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 1956(a)(1)(B)(i).

3 7. The defendant entered into a conspiracy to coordinate the laundering of
4 proceeds derived from the lottery fraud/romance scheme. BELLINFANTIE directed
5 one or more persons in the conspiracy to launder the fraudulent proceeds, that is, to
6 disguise the nature, location, source, ownership, and control of the fraudulent
7 proceeds through various financial transactions. Various individuals to include a
8 fellow co-conspirator (charged elsewhere) would receive money from Victim B.J.
9 obtained through the mail and wire fraud scheme. BELLINFANTIE, using the name
10 "Terry Sweeney," and in furtherance of the fraud scheme, would direct Victim B.J.
11 to transfer money to these individuals. The individual "money runners" to include
12 BELLINFANTIE's fellow co-conspirator (charged elsewhere) would conduct
13 financial transactions and transfer the funds to other individuals on behalf of co-
14 conspirator/defendant BELLINFANTIE. Portions of the fraudulent proceeds were
15 transferred at the direction of BELLINFANTIE in interstate and in foreign
16 commerce to individuals in Jamaica. The co-conspirators conducted these financial
17 transactions in part to disguise the nature, location, source, ownership, and control
18 of the fraudulently obtained funds.

19 All in violation of Title 18 United States Code, Section 1956(h).

20 **Forfeiture Allegation**

21 8. Upon conviction of an offense in violation of Title 18, United States
22 Code, Section 1349, defendant BELLINFANTIE shall forfeit to the United States of
23 America, pursuant to Title 18, United States Code, Section 981(a)(1)(C) and Title
24 28, United States Code, Section 2461(c), any property, real or personal, which
25 constitutes or is derived from proceeds traceable to the offense.

26 9. Upon conviction of an offense in violation of Title 18, United States
27 Code, Section 1343 and/or 1341, or of a conspiracy to commit such offenses, also in
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1 violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 1349, the defendant
2 BELLINFANTIE shall forfeit to the United States of America, pursuant to Title 18,
3 United States Code, Section 982(a)(8), any real or personal property --

4 (A) used or intended to be used to commit, to facilitate, or to promote the
5 commission of such offenses; and

6 (B) constituting, derived from, or traceable to the gross proceeds obtained
7 directly or indirectly as a result of the offenses.

8 10. Upon conviction of an offense in violation of Title 18, United States
9 Code, Section 1956, the defendant BELLINFANTIE shall forfeit to the United
10 States of America, pursuant to Title 18, United States Code, Section 982(a)(1), any
11 property, real or personal, involved in such offense, and any property traceable to
12 such property.

13 11. The property to be forfeited includes, but is not limited to, a sum of
14 money in U.S. currency equal to the amount of proceeds obtained as a result of the
15 above charged offenses.

16 12. If any of the forfeitable property, as a result of any act or omission of
17 the defendants: (1) cannot be located upon the exercise of due diligence; (2) has
18 been transferred or sold to, or deposited with, a third party; (3) has been placed
19 beyond the jurisdiction of the court; (4) has been substantially diminished in value;
20 or (5) has been commingled with other property which cannot be divided without
21 difficulty; it is the intent of the United States, pursuant to Title 21, United States
22 Code, Section 853(p), as incorporated by Title 18, United States Code, Section
23 982(b)(1) and Title 28, United States Code, Section 2461(c), to seek forfeiture of
24 any other property of said defendant up to the value of the above forfeitable property,
25 including but not limited to all property, both real and personal, owned by the
26 defendants.
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1 All pursuant to Title 18, United States Code, Sections 981(a)(1)(C), 982(a)(1),
2 982(a)(8), 982(b)(1), Title 28, United States Code, Section 2461(c), and Rule
3 32.2(a), Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure.

4
5 A TRUE BILL

6 /S/

7 FOREPERSON OF THE GRAND JURY
8 Dated: March 23, 2022

9 GARY M. RESTAINO
United States Attorney
District of Arizona

10 /S/ **REDACTED FOR
PUBLIC DISCLOSURE**

11 JONATHAN B. GRANOFF
12 Assistant U.S. Attorney