

Lucinda Mahoney
Commissioner

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Department of
Revenue

Juneau, Alaska

STATE OF ALASKA

PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

Department of Revenue Criminal Investigation Unit Helps With Fraud Indictment

June 2, 2022 (Juneau, AK) – Last week Larry Scroggins was indicted by a Florida Federal grand jury in connection with an attempt to fraudulently divert Permanent Fund Dividends (PFD) from eligible Alaskans.

PFD Division staff received complaints from multiple Alaskans they had received an automated email from the PFD Division advising them of a deposit change on the PFD application that they hadn't initiated. Alaskan victims had noted that an unknown actor had changed the Direct Deposit information of their PFD application without their permission or consent. In all these changes, the direct deposit was switched from a brick-and-mortar bank to a refillable bank card.

The complaint was forwarded to the Alaska Department of Revenue, Criminal Investigations Unit (DOR-CIU), the agency responsible for investigating allegations of PFD fraud. DOR-CIU Investigators travelled to Florida, and with the assistance of the Broward Sheriff's Office, Sunrise Police SWAT, Department of Law Office of Inspector General, U.S. Secret Service, and Department of Homeland Security, a search warrant was executed on Scroggins' residence.

Mr. Scroggins was indicted for one count of Use of Unauthorized Access Devices (18 U.S.C. § 1029(a)(2)), one count of Possession of Fifteen or More Unauthorized Access Devices (18 U.S.C. § 1029(a)(3)), and seven counts of Aggravated Identity Theft (18 U.S.C. § 1028A(a)(1)). Federal law requires a two year sentence for each conviction of Aggravated Identity Theft not to be served concurrently. If convicted, Scroggins could face 14 years to 34 years in Federal prison in addition to significant fines.

These charges are only allegations and are not evidence of guilt. Mr. Scroggins is presumed innocent and is entitled to a fair trial at which the prosecutor must prove guilt beyond a reasonable doubt.

Commissioner Lucinda Mahoney thanks the CIU team for their work on this. "This is just one example of CIU's dedication to handling difficult cybercrimes to protect Alaskans. I also want to ensure the public that PFD was not breached, that these bad actors were

able to make these changes because they already had the individuals' personally identifiable information," stated Commissioner Mahoney.

"PFD fraud is a very serious crime and those looking to take advantage of Alaskans will face consequences to the fullest extent of the law," stated PFD Director Genevieve Wojtusik. "Alaskans who want to protect themselves from becoming victims are reminded to change their password regularly, not reuse passwords such as those used for your email or social media accounts, to log in to your myPFD account and ensure that your application is in 'eligible' status and that all of your information is correct prior to the October distribution to ensure that key fields such your address and direct deposit information have not been changed by a bad actor."

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Media contact: Leighan Gonzales, Acting PIO, Department of Revenue (907) 269-6912