

Presented to the Court by the foreman of the Grand Jury in open Court, in the presence of the Grand Jury and FILED in the U.S. DISTRICT COURT at Seattle, Washington.

MARCH 18 2015  
By William M. McCool, Clerk  
Deputy

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE WESTERN DISTRICT OF WASHINGTON AT SEATTLE

CR 15 078 Jcc  
NO.

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,  
Plaintiff,  
v.  
VERNON WAYNE OFFICER,  
Defendant.

INDICTMENT

The Grand Jury charges that:

**COUNTS 1-10**  
**(Wire Fraud)**

**A. The Scheme and Artifice to Defraud**

1. Beginning in March 2011, and continuing until January 2013, at Anacortes, within the Western District of Washington, and elsewhere, VERNON WAYNE OFFICER devised and intended to devise a scheme and artifice to defraud and obtain money and property by means of materially false and fraudulent pretenses, representations, promises, and the concealment of material facts.

2. The essence of the scheme and artifice to defraud was for VERNON WAYNE OFFICER to defraud N.P., an elderly woman, by fraudulently demanding funds from her that he falsely represented were necessary for a purported joint business venture which he then used for his own personal benefit.

INDICTMENT/OFFICER - 1

UNITED STATES ATTORNEY  
700 STEWART STREET, SUITE 5220  
SEATTLE, WASHINGTON 98101  
(206) 553-7970

1           **B.     Background**

2           3.     In March 2011, VERNON WAYNE OFFICER, then fifty-two-years-old  
3 and unemployed, met N.P., then a seventy-nine-year-old widow residing in Virginia, on a  
4 social website. At the time N.P. met VERNON WAYNE OFFICER, she had a  
5 substantial estate.

6           4.     Later that month, VERNON WAYNE OFFICER traveled to Virginia to  
7 meet N.P. During his visit, VERNON WAYNE OFFICER repeatedly demanded money  
8 from N.P. for various expenditures, including to fix his vehicle. VERNON WAYNE  
9 OFFICER also encouraged N.P. to liquidate her investment accounts, and ultimately  
10 convinced her to do so.

11          5.     During his trip to Virginia, VERNON WAYNE OFFICER told N.P. that he  
12 planned to bid on the Achusnet, a former Coast Guard cutter, which the General Services  
13 Administration (“GSA”) had listed for sale to the public on its website. N.P. asked  
14 VERNON WAYNE OFFICER not to bid on the vessel, but he did anyway.

15          6.     On March 16, 2011, VERNON WAYNE OFFICER won the auction with a  
16 \$600,825 bid. VERNON WAYNE OFFICER falsely told N.P. that he would go to jail  
17 unless she paid for the vessel. N.P. reluctantly agreed to give VERNON WAYNE  
18 OFFICER the funds necessary to purchase the vessel and keep OFFICER out of jail.

19          7.     On March 30, 2011, VERNON WAYNE OFFICER formed a Nevada  
20 company, listing himself as fifty-one-percent owner, with N.P. owning the remaining  
21 forty-nine percent. Later that day, VERNON WAYNE OFFICER transferred title of the  
22 Achusnet to the company. At times, VERNON WAYNE OFFICER told N.P. that the  
23 vessel would be used as part of a diving business, and other times he said the vessel  
24 would be repaired and sold.

25           **C.     Manner and Means of the Scheme and Artifice to Defraud**

26          8.     It was part of the scheme and artifice to defraud that VERNON WAYNE  
27 OFFICER repeatedly demanded money from N.P. that he falsely stated was needed to  
28 repair and maintain the Achusnet.

1 9. It was part of the scheme and artifice to defraud that VERNON WAYNE  
2 OFFICER repeatedly demanded money from N.P. that he falsely stated was needed to  
3 attract buyers for the vessel. VERNON WAYNE OFFICER claimed, for example, that  
4 he needed money to throw extravagant parties for prospective buyers of the boat.

5 10. It was part of the scheme and artifice to defraud that VERNON WAYNE  
6 OFFICER repeatedly and fraudulently demanded money from N.P., purportedly to  
7 operate the business that he owned with N.P.

8 11. It was part of the scheme and artifice to defraud that VERNON WAYNE  
9 OFFICER repeatedly demanded these sums on the false pretense that N.P would lose her  
10 entire investment in the Acushnet if she failed or refused to advance him additional  
11 funds.

12 12. It was part of the scheme and artifice to defraud that N.P. gave VERNON  
13 WAYNE OFFICER over \$400,000 in response to his payment demands and that he spent  
14 this money for his personal use. This amount was in addition to the over \$600,000 that  
15 N.P gave VERNON WAYNE OFFICER to purchase the boat.

16 13. It was part of the scheme and artifice to defraud that VERNON WAYNE  
17 OFFICER instructed N.P. not to cooperate with federal investigators when they started  
18 investigating his expenditures of N.P.'s money.

19 **D. Execution of the Scheme and Artifice to Defraud**

20 14. On or about the dates set forth below, at Anacortes, within the Western  
21 District of Washington, and elsewhere, VERNON WAYNE OFFICER, having devised  
22 the above-described scheme and artifice, for the purpose of executing this scheme and  
23 artifice, did knowingly transmit and cause to be transmitted by wire communication in  
24 interstate and foreign commerce writings, signs, signals, pictures, and sounds, to wit:

25 //

26 //

27

28

Count	Date	Amount	Wire Transmission
1	June 20, 2011	\$1818.80	Purchase by VERNON WAYNE OFFICER of plane tickets for personal use, using BB&T check card, resulting in wire transmission from Washington to North Carolina
2	July 13, 2011	\$324.20	Purchase by VERNON WAYNE OFFICER of meal at restaurant for personal use, using BB&T check card, resulting in wire transmission from Washington to North Carolina
3	July 19, 2011	\$875.24	Purchase by VERNON WAYNE OFFICER of guitar for personal use, using BB&T check card, resulting in wire transmission from Washington to North Carolina
4	December 5, 2011	\$285.65	Purchase by VERNON WAYNE OFFICER of flowers for personal use, using BB&T check card, resulting in wire transmission from Washington to North Carolina
5	December 20, 2011	\$1227.17	Purchase by VERNON WAYNE OFFICER of Apple products for personal use, using BB&T check card, resulting in wire transmission from Washington to North Carolina
6	December 23, 2011	\$1102.21	Purchase by VERNON WAYNE OFFICER of jewelry and virus software for personal use, using BB&T check card, resulting in wire transmission from Washington to North Carolina
7	January 5, 2012	\$327.20	Purchase by VERNON WAYNE OFFICER of plane tickets for personal use, using BB&T check card, resulting in wire transmission from Washington to North Carolina
8	January 15, 2012	\$147.30	Purchase by VERNON WAYNE OFFICER of indoor skydiving services for personal use, using BB&T check card, resulting in wire transmission from Washington to North Carolina

9	February 13, 2012	\$309.91	Purchase by VERNON WAYNE OFFICER of flowers for personal use, using BB&T check card, resulting in wire transmission from Washington to North Carolina
10	February 16, 2012	\$851.20	Purchase by VERNON WAYNE OFFICER of plane tickets for personal use, using BB&T check card, resulting in wire transmission from Washington to North Carolina

All in violation of Title 18, United State Code, Sections 1343 and 2.

**COUNT 11**  
**(Fraudulent and False Income Tax Statements)**

On or about March 30, 2012, at Anacortes, within the Western District of Washington, and elsewhere, VERNON WAYNE OFFICER did willfully make and subscribe a 2011 1040 tax return, which was verified by a written declaration that it was made under the penalties of perjury and which VERNON WAYNE OFFICER did not believe to be true and correct as to every material matter, to wit, said return stated that VERNON WAYNE OFFICER received \$20,664 in income, whereas as he then and there knew, he had received additional income.

All in violation of Title 26, United States Code, Section 7206(1).

**ASSET FORFEITURE ALLEGATIONS**

Upon conviction of the offenses alleged in Counts 1 through 10 of the Indictment, the defendant, VERNON WAYNE OFFICER, shall forfeit to the United States, all property, real or personal, which constitutes or is derived from proceeds traceable to such offenses.

If any of the above described forfeitable property, as a result of any act or omission of the Defendant,

1. cannot be located upon the exercise of due diligence;
2. has been transferred or sold to, or deposited with, a third party;
3. has been placed beyond the jurisdiction of the Court;

- 1 4. has been substantially diminished in value; or
- 2 5. has been commingled with other property which cannot be divided
- 3 without difficulty;

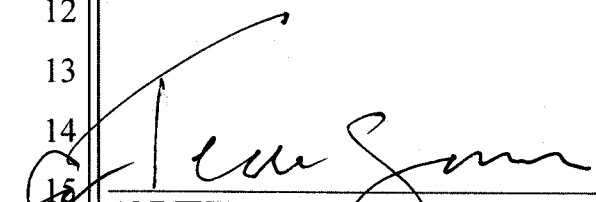
4 it is the intent of the United States, pursuant to Title 21, United States Code,  
 5 Section 853(p), to seek the forfeiture of any other property of the Defendant up to the  
 6 value of the above described forfeitable property.

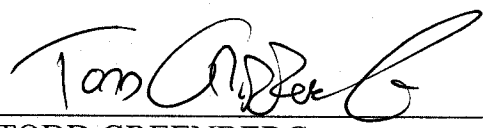
8 A TRUE BILL:

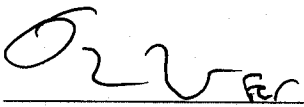
9 DATED: 3-18-15

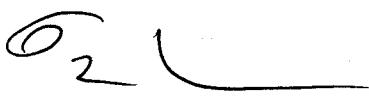
11 (Signature of Foreperson redacted pursuant to  
 12 the policy of the Judicial Conference of the  
 13 United States)

14 FOREPERSON

15   
 16 ANNETTE L. HAYES  
 17 Acting United States Attorney

18   
 19 TODD GREENBERG  
 20 Assistant United States Attorney

22   
 23 DAVID JENNINGS  
 24 Assistant United States Attorney

26   
 27 THOMAS M. WOODS  
 28 Assistant United States Attorney

INDICTMENT/OFFICER - 6

UNITED STATES ATTORNEY  
 700 STEWART STREET, SUITE 5220  
 SEATTLE, WASHINGTON 98101  
 (206) 553-7970

**DEFENDANT STATUS SHEET** (One for each defendant)

I. CASE STATUS

NAME OF DEFENDANT Vernon Officer

USAO# 2012R00431

   / MAGISTRATE'S NO. \_\_\_\_\_

   / DOCKET NO. (If Superseding Indictment) CR

\*\*\*\*\*  
II. CUSTODIAL STATUS

HAS DEFENDANT HAD INITIAL APPEARANCE IN THIS CASE?    / yes   x / no

IF YES:

   / DEFENDANT HAS BEEN RELEASED ON THE FOLLOWING CONDITIONS: \_\_\_\_\_

\*\*\*    / A DETENTION HEARING HAS BEEN SCHEDULED FOR: \_\_\_\_\_

   / A DETENTION ORDER HAS BEEN ENTERED.

\*\*\*    / TEMPORARY DETENTION

\*\*\*    / PERMANENT DETENTION

   / IF THE DEFENDANT HAS HAD INITIAL APPEARANCE IN ANOTHER DISTRICT, THE ABOVE RELEASE ON CONDITIONS OR DETENTION ORDER WAS ENTERED IN THE \_\_\_\_\_ DISTRICT OF \_\_\_\_\_ AND THE DEFENDANT'S FIRST APPEARANCE IN THIS DISTRICT IS EXPECTED TO BE/HAS BEEN SET FOR \_\_\_\_\_ (Date)

   / DEFENDANT IS IN CUSTODY ON OTHER CHARGES:

   / SERVING A FEDERAL SENTENCE AT \_\_\_\_\_

   / PENDING FEDERAL CHARGES IN THE \_\_\_\_\_ DISTRICT OF \_\_\_\_\_

   / PENDING STATE CHARGES AT \_\_\_\_\_

\*\*\*\*\*  
III. ARRAIGNMENT

  x / WARRANT TO ISSUE. (IF SO, PLEASE COMPLETE REVERSE)

   / SUMMONS TO BE ISSUED FOR APPEARANCE ON \_\_\_\_\_ (Date) CALENDAR. (DEFENDANT'S ADDRESS REQUIRED.)

DEFENDANT'S ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

   / LETTER TO DEFENSE COUNSEL FOR APPEARANCE ON \_\_\_\_\_ (Date) CALENDAR.

DEFENSE ATTORNEY'S NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

DEFENSE ATTORNEY'S ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

\*\*\*\*\*  
IV. CONDITIONS OF RELEASE

  x / NOT PREVIOUSLY SET, SHOULD BE: Detention  
[e.g., P.R.; BAIL (listing conditions); DETENTION]

   / PREVIOUSLY SET, SHOULD BE:

   / CONTINUE CONDITIONS OF RELEASE

   / CONTINUE DETENTION

   / MODIFIED AS FOLLOWS (state reasons for modifying): \_\_\_\_\_

\*\*\*\*\*  
HAS THE FPD represented any subject or witness in this case?    / Yes   x / No

\*\*\*\*\*  
THE ESTIMATED TRIAL TIME IS 5 TRIAL DAYS.

February 9, 2015

(Date Form filled out)