

Bank contractor admits to conspiracy to load debit cards with fraudulent funds

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For Immediate Release

U.S. Attorney's Office, Southern District of Texas

HOUSTON – A 23-year-old Houston woman has pleaded guilty to conspiracy to commit wire fraud, announced U.S. Attorney Nicholas J. Ganjei.

Jaysha Victorian worked for a bank contractor from late 2020 to early 2021. She used her access to the systems of a national banking institution to load prepaid debit cards with fraudulent funds. These included prepaid cards that were used to provide unemployment benefits, including for the state of California.

The cards were distributed to other recipients, who withdrew the funds at ATMs and other locations. In total, Victorian credited at least 187 cards with nearly \$8.6 million in fraudulent funds. Over \$7.6 million of that amount had been withdrawn or spent before the bank could freeze the cards.

Victorian admitted she used some of the funds to conduct ATM transactions on her own, including a \$1,000 withdrawal at a branch in Houston.

She also received approximately \$300,000 in cash proceeds from her role in the scheme.

U.S. District Judge Andrew S. Hanen will impose sentencing July 7. At that time, Victorian faces up to five years in prison and a possible \$250,000 fine.

She was permitted to remain on bond pending that hearing.

The FBI, Houston Police Department, Department of Homeland Security - Office of Inspector General's Covid Fraud Unit and Department of Labor conducted the investigation. Assistant U.S. Attorneys Brad Gray and Karen Lansden are prosecuting the case.

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