

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
DISTRICT OF NEW JERSEY**

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA : Hon.
 :
 v. : Crim. No. 23-
 :
 PARRISH BROOKINS : 18 U.S.C. § 1709

I N F O R M A T I O N

The defendant having waived in open court prosecution by Indictment, the Attorney for the United States, acting under Authority Conferred by 28 U.S.C. § 515, for the District of New Jersey charges:

Theft of Mail Matter by a Postal Service Employee

1. At all times relevant to this Information, defendant PARRISH BROOKINS was employed by the United States Postal Service (“USPS”) as a Carrier out of the USPS Station in Montclair, New Jersey (“Montclair Station”).

2. On multiple occasions from in or about January 2021 through in or about September 2021, BROOKINS stole from the United States mail credit cards and United States Treasury checks that had been sent to addresses along his assigned mail routes and mail routes serviced out of the Montclair Station, including routes in Verona, New Jersey. BROOKINS provided some of the stolen credit cards and Treasury checks to others in exchange for payment. BROOKINS activated some of the stolen credit cards himself, and then attempted to use those credit cards to make fraudulent purchases.

3. For example, on or about January 14, 2021, BROOKINS was assigned to deliver mail on a postal route in Verona, New Jersey where Victim 1 resided. Several days earlier, a bank (the "ISSUING BANK") mailed a credit card issued to Victim 1 to Victim 1's address. Victim 1 never received that credit card. Subsequently, BROOKINS used his cellular phone (the "BROOKINS PHONE") to call a number at the ISSUING BANK used to telephonically activate credit cards. This stolen credit card was subsequently used to attempt several fraudulent purchases between on or about January 20, 2021 and on or about January 23, 2021, including an attempted purchase totaling \$405.00 from a shoe retailer. All the attempted purchases were declined.

4. Between on or about February 19, 2021 and on or about February 25, 2021, BROOKINS was assigned to deliver mail on a postal route in Verona, New Jersey where Victim 2 resided. In or about this timeframe, the ISSUING BANK mailed a credit card issued to Victim 2 to Victim 2's address. Victim 2 never received that credit card. On or about February 26, 2021 and again on or about February 28, 2021, a phone number subscribed to by another individual was used to call a number at the ISSUING BANK, presumably to activate that credit card. After the card was activated, it was used to make approximately \$4,136.81 in fraudulent purchases on or about February 26 and 27, 2021. This card was also used in connection with attempted fraudulent purchases totaling approximately \$3,182.02 that were declined on or about February 27 and 28, 2021.

5. On or about March 26, 2021, BROOKINS was assigned to work a specific postal route in Verona, New Jersey. Data compiled via the USPS's Intelligence Mail Barcode system revealed that 16 U.S. Treasury checks mailed to addresses along this same postal route with expected delivery dates of March 26, 2021 were never delivered to their expected recipients. A subsequent search conducted an individual's Instagram account revealed numerous conversations concerning stolen stimulus checks issued by the U.S. Treasury as well as contact between that individual's Instagram account and BROOKINS's Instagram account. A participant in these Instagram conversations posted a photograph of 21 stolen U.S. Treasury checks, including all 16 of the Treasury checks which were supposed to have been delivered on BROOKINS's postal route, but which never reached their intended recipients.

6. From in or about January 2021 through in or about September 2021, in Essex County, in the District of New Jersey, and elsewhere, defendant

PARRISH BROOKINS,

being a USPS employee, did embezzle, steal, abstract, and remove from mail, articles and things contained therein, namely, credit cards sent by financial institutions and checks sent by the U.S. Department of the Treasury, entrusted to him and which came into his possession intended to be conveyed by mail, and carried and delivered by any carrier, messenger, agent and other person employed in any department of the USPS, and forwarded through and delivered from any post office and station thereof established by authority of the Postmaster General and the USPS.

In violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 1709.

Vikas Khanna / by LMC

VIKAS KHANNA
Attorney for the United States,
Acting under Authority Conferred
by 28 U.S.C. § 515