

FILED  
U.S. DISTRICT COURT  
EASTERN DISTRICT OF LA.  
2020 SEP 23 P 3:37

CAROL L. MICHEL  
CLERK CC

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
EASTERN DISTRICT OF LOUISIANA

**FELONY**

BILL OF INFORMATION FOR WIRE FRAUD

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

\* CRIMINAL NO.

20-00101

v.

\* SECTION:

SECT. JMAG.2

JOSEPH MEISCH

\* VIOLATION: 18 U.S.C. § 1343

\* \* \*

The United States Attorney charges that:

COUNT 1

A. AT ALL TIMES MATERIAL HEREIN:

1. The defendant, **JOSEPH MEISCH** (“**MEISCH**”), was business manager for St. Patrick’s Church (the “Church”) located in New Orleans, Louisiana.

2. As the business manager, **MEISCH** had control of the Church’s financial records, bank accounts, PayPal account and two credit cards.

B. THE SCHEME:

From on or about July 2015 to on or about July 23, 2018, in the Eastern District of Louisiana and elsewhere, the defendant, **JOSEPH MEISCH**, devised and intended to devise a scheme to defraud the Church, and to obtain money and property by means of materially false and fraudulent pretenses, representations and promises. It was part of the scheme that the defendant

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transferred Church funds into his personal bank accounts and made unauthorized credit card purchases for his personal use, totaling approximately \$329,856.20.

**C. MANNER AND MEANS:**

It was part of the scheme that:

1. **MEISCH** wrote unauthorized checks from the Church bank accounts to himself and his security company, and deposited those funds into a personal bank account.
2. **MEISCH** utilized Church credit cards to purchase personal items unrelated to church business.
3. **MEISCH** wire transferred money sent to the Church PayPal account into his personal bank account.

**D. THE WIRE:**

On or about August 28, 2017, in the Eastern District of Louisiana, for the purpose of executing the above-described scheme, the defendant, **JOSEPH MEISCH**, did knowingly and willfully transmit and cause to be transmitted by means of wire communication in interstate commerce, between Metairie, Louisiana and Wilmington, Delaware, certain writings, signals, and sounds; that is, the defendant, without authorization, caused St. Patrick's Church funds to be transmitted by means of wire communication by utilizing a Church credit card to purchase a firearm and other sporting goods.

All in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 1343.

**NOTICE OF FORFEITURE**

1. The allegations of Count 1 are incorporated by reference as though set forth fully herein for the purpose of alleging forfeiture to the United States.

2. As a result of the offense alleged in Count 1, defendant, **JOSEPH MEISCH**, shall forfeit to the United States pursuant to Title 18, United States Code, Section 981(a)(1)(C), and Title 28, United States Code, Section 2461(c), any property real or personal which constitutes or is derived from proceeds traceable to said offense.

3. If any of the above-described property, as a result of any act or omission of the defendant:

- a. cannot be located upon the exercise of due diligence;
- b. has been transferred or sold to, or deposited with, a third person;
- c. has been placed beyond the jurisdiction of the Court;
- d. has been substantially diminished in value; or
- e. has been commingled with other property which cannot be subdivided without difficulty;

the United States, shall seek a money judgment and, pursuant to Title 21, United States Code, Section 853(p), forfeiture of any other property of the defendant up to the value of said property.

PETER G. STRASSER  
UNITED STATES ATTORNEY



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TRACEY N. KNIGHT  
Assistant United States Attorney  
Louisiana Bar Roll Number 23165

New Orleans, Louisiana  
September 23, 2020