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UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT EASTERN DISTRICT OF LOUISIANA

FELONY

INDICTMENT FOR THEFT OF GOVERNMENT FUNDS

CRIMINAL NO.

23-00005

SECTION:

SECT. D MAG. 2

PENELOPE PASSERO

v.

VIOLATION: 18 U.S.C. § 641

The Grand Jury charges that:

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

COUNT 1

Beginning on or about February 1, 2016, through on or about December 31, 2020, in the Eastern District of Louisiana and elsewhere, the defendant, **PENELOPE PASSERO**, did knowingly embezzle, steal, purloin, and convert to her use, money belonging to the United States and a department and agency thereof, namely, money of the Social Security Administration and the Internal Revenue Service, to which she knew she was not entitled, when she utilized approximately \$59,320.97 in Social Security Administration and Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act ("CARES ACT") funds.

All in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 641.

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NOTICE OF FORFEITURE

- 1. The allegation of Count 1 of this Indictment is 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, the defendant, **PENELOPE PASSERO**, 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.

A TRUE BILL:

I OKLI EKOOP

DUANE A. EVANS UNITED STATES ATTORNEY

BRIAN M. KLEBBA

Assistant United States Attorney

New Orleans, Louisiana January 12, 2023