



# Memorandum



Miami-Dade County Office of the Inspector General  
A State of Florida Commission on Law Enforcement Accredited Agency  
601 NW 1<sup>st</sup> Court ♦ South Tower, 22<sup>nd</sup> Floor ♦ Miami, Florida 33136  
Phone: (305) 375-1946 ♦ Fax: (305) 579-2656  
Visit our website at: [www.miamidadeig.org](http://www.miamidadeig.org)

To: The Honorable Daniella Levine Cava, Mayor, Miami-Dade County  
The Honorable Jose "Pepe" Diaz, Chairman  
and Members, Board of County Commissioners, Miami-Dade County

From: Felix Jimenez, Inspector General 

Date: November 18, 2021

Subject: Former County Employee Sentenced for CARES Act Fraud; IG 20-0014-I

---

Willie Curry, a former Network Manager 2 for the County's Water and Sewer Department, was sentenced today to 6 months in prison followed by 6 months of home confinement and 6 months of supervised release after pleading guilty in the United States District Court for the Southern District of Florida to one count of wire fraud related to his application for a CARES (Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security) Act small business loan. The Miami-Dade County Office of the Inspector General, in conjunction with the United States Attorney's Office; the Federal Bureau of Investigation; the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) Inspector General; the Miami-Dade Police Department, and other participating law enforcement agencies found that Mr. Curry had submitted to the SBA, via interstate wire communications, a fraudulent COVID-19 Economic Injury Disaster Loan application for his company, Will Curry Computers. Mr. Curry falsely certified the company was established on January 1, 2015; that it employed 10 people, and, for the 12-month period prior to January 31, 2020, it generated gross revenues of \$755,416 and had cost of goods sold totaling \$170,664.

The joint investigation determined Mr. Curry established the company in 2020, had generated minimal income and cost of goods sold, and had no employees besides Mr. Curry. He was, from 2002 until his resignation in June 2021, a full-time employee, receiving a full-time salary from Miami-Dade County. As a result of this false and fraudulent application, the SBA disbursed a \$10,000 advance via Electronic Funds Transfer and later \$150,000 in loan proceeds intended for deposit in Mr. Curry's account at a local financial institution. The funds were rejected by the financial institution and returned to the SBA. Mr. Curry contacted the SBA and attempted to have the loan proceeds re-routed to a different bank. Attached please find a press release from the USAO.

Attachment

cc: Johanna Cervone, Chief of Staff, Office of the Mayor  
Jimmy Morales, Chief Operating Officer, Office of the Mayor  
Roy Coley, Director, Water and Sewer Department  
Cathy Jackson, Director, Audit and Management Services  
Yinka Majekodunmi, Commission Auditor  
Jennifer Moon, Chief, Office of Policy and Budgetary Affairs

**Department of Justice**  
**U.S. Attorney's Office**  
**Southern District of Florida**

---

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Wednesday, November 17, 2021

## **Former Miami-Dade County Employee Sentenced to Federal Prison for COVID-19 Relief Fraud**

Miami, Florida – Today, 58-year-old Miami-Dade County resident Willie Curry was sentenced to six months in federal prison by Senior United States District Judge James Lawrence King after having pled guilty to wire fraud in connection with Curry's fraudulent application to the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) for a low-interest COVID-19 relief loan. In determining the sentence, Senior Judge King took into consideration Curry's seven years of honorable service in the United States Army.

Curry was a long-time employee of Miami-Dade County. In 2019 and 2020, the County employed Curry full-time as a Network Manager. As a County employee, Curry suffered no loss of salary due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Despite this, on June 24, 2020, Curry submitted to the SBA an Economic Injury Disaster Loan (EIDL) application stating that he was the 100% owner of a sole proprietorship operating under the name "Will Curry Computers." In that application, Curry falsely and fraudulently certified that Will Curry Computers was established on January 1, 2015, and that during the twelve-month period prior to January 31, 2020, Will Curry Computers had gross revenues of approximately \$755,416, a cost of goods sold of approximately \$170,664, and 10 employees. In reality, Curry established Will Curry Computers in 2020, it had only minimal gross revenues and cost of goods sold during the twelve-month period prior to January 31, 2020, and it had no employees.

Based on the defendant's materially false and fraudulent EIDL application, the SBA disbursed a \$10,000 advance and then \$150,000 in loan proceeds to Curry's listed financial institution for Curry's benefit. The financial institution instead returned the money to the SBA, and after Curry was notified of this, he made numerous contacts to the SBA in an ultimately unsuccessful attempt to have the money sent to an account he maintained at another financial institution. In the end, his fraudulent efforts were uncovered by law enforcement.

The full sentence imposed by Senior Judge King was six months imprisonment, to be followed by one year of supervised release, with the first six months of supervised release to be served in home confinement. A \$100.00 special assessment was also imposed.

Juan Antonio Gonzalez, U.S. Attorney for the Southern District of Florida, George L. Piro, Special Agent in Charge, FBI Miami, and Amaleka McCall-Brathwaite, Special Agent in Charge, Small Business Administration, Investigations Division's Eastern Region (SBA-OIG) announced the sentence.

FBI Miami's Area Corruption Task Force, which includes task force officers from the Miami-Dade Police Department's Professional Compliance Bureau, Criminal Conspiracy Section, and SBA-OIG investigated this matter. The Miami-Dade County Office of Inspector General and United States Secret Service provided invaluable assistance. Assistant U.S. Attorney Edward N. Stamm prosecuted this case.

In March 2020, the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security ("CARES") Act was enacted. It was designed to provide emergency financial assistance to the millions of Americans suffering the economic effects caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. Among other sources of relief, the CARES Act authorized and provided funding to the SBA to provide Economic Injury Disaster Loans ("EIDLs") to eligible small businesses, including sole proprietorships and independent contractors, experiencing substantial financial disruptions due to the COVID-19 pandemic to allow them to meet financial obligations and operating expenses that could otherwise have been met had the disaster not occurred. EIDL applications were submitted directly to the SBA via the SBA's on-line application website, and the applications were processed and the loans funded for qualifying applicants directly by the SBA.

On May 17, 2021, the Attorney General established the COVID-19 Fraud Enforcement Task Force to marshal the resources of the Department of Justice in partnership with agencies across government to enhance efforts to combat and prevent pandemic-related fraud. The Task Force bolsters efforts to investigate and prosecute the most culpable domestic and international criminal actors and assists agencies tasked with administering relief programs to prevent fraud by, among other methods, augmenting and incorporating existing coordination mechanisms, identifying resources and techniques to uncover fraudulent actors and their schemes, and sharing and harnessing information and insights gained from prior enforcement efforts. For more information on the Department's response to the pandemic, please visit <https://www.justice.gov/coronavirus>.

Anyone with information about allegations of attempted fraud involving COVID-19 can report it by calling the Department of Justice's National Center for Disaster Fraud (NCDF) Hotline at 866-720-5721 or via the NCDF Web Complaint Form at: <https://www.justice.gov/disaster-fraud/ncdf-disaster-complaint-form>.

Related court documents and information may be found on the website of the District Court for the Southern District of Florida at [www.flsd.uscourts.gov](http://www.flsd.uscourts.gov) or at <http://pacer.flsd.uscourts.gov>, under case number 21-cr-20415.

###

**Topic(s):**

Coronavirus

Disaster Fraud

**Component(s):**

USAO - Florida, Southern

**Contact:**

Marlene Rodriguez Special Counsel to the U.S. Attorney Public Affairs Officer

USAFLS.News@usdoj.gov

Updated November 17, 2021