

PRESS RELEASE

Former Suffolk County Corrections Officer Pleads Guilty to COVID Unemployment and Loan Fraud

Thursday, April 2, 2026

For Immediate Release

U.S. Attorney's Office, District of Massachusetts

BOSTON – A former corrections officer employed by the Suffolk County Sherriff's Department pleaded guilty today in federal court in Boston to submitting fraudulent information in an effort to obtain loans through CARES Act programs like the Pandemic Unemployment Assistance (PUA) program and the Paycheck Protection Program (PPP).

Jasmine Murphy, 39, of Boston, pleaded guilty to seven counts of wire fraud and one count of making a false statement to a financial institution, arising out of PUA and PPP loan benefits obtained prior to her employment at the Suffolk County Sherriff's Department and Unemployment Insurance (UI) benefits obtained prior to, and during, her employment there. U.S. District Court Judge Richard G. Stearns scheduled sentencing for July 9, 2026. [In December 2025](#), Murphy was indicted along with another officer Christnel Orisca.

Murphy had been a Corrections Officer with the Suffolk County Sherriff's Department from approximately January 2022 to December 2024. Prior to her employment with the Suffolk Sheriff's Department, Murphy fraudulently applied for pandemic unemployment and small business loan benefits while working for trucking and workforce services companies. While working at the Sheriff's Department, Murphy fraudulently collected UI benefits for a brief period of time early in her tenure. In total, Murphy obtained approximately \$44,346 in unemployment benefits and small business loan funds to which she was not entitled.

In their PUA applications, both Murphy and Orisca made fraudulent representations about their employment status and thereafter falsely claimed, on a weekly basis, that they did not work and did not receive any income during the prior week. In their PPP loan applications, Murphy and Orisca submitted false statements to SBA-approved lenders, including about the income and/or payroll of their purported small businesses, in order to obtain their loans. According to the charging documents, they also made false representations on forms submitted to request that their PPP loans be forgiven.

Orisca pleaded guilty [in November 2025](#) and is scheduled to be sentenced on May 12, 2026.

The charge of wire fraud provides for a sentence of up to 20 years in prison, three years of supervised release and a \$250,000 fine. The charge of making false statements to a financial institution provides for a sentence of up to 30 years in prison, five years of supervised release and a \$1 million fine. Sentences are imposed by a federal district court judge based upon the U.S. Sentencing Guidelines and statutes which govern the determination of a sentence in a criminal case.

United States Attorney Leah B. Foley; Anthony P. D'Esposito, Inspector General, U.S. Department of Labor, Office of Inspector General; and Inspector General Joseph V. Cuffari, Ph.D., U.S. Department of Homeland Security, Office of Inspector General made the announcement today. The U.S. Postal Inspection Service, Boston Police Department and the Suffolk County Sheriff's Department provided valuable assistance with the investigation. Assistant U.S. Attorney Dustin Chao, Chief of the Public Corruption & Special Prosecutions Unit, is prosecuting the case.

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 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> and <https://www.justice.gov/coronavirus/combatingfraud>.

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 Hotline via the <https://www.justice.gov/disaster-fraud/webform/ncdf-disaster-complaint-form>.

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