## **Department of Justice**

U.S. Attorney's Office

## District of New Hampshire

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Monday, January 30, 2023

## Salem Man Pleads Guilty to Wire Fraud Related to the **COVID-19 Pandemic**

**CONCORD** – Michael Rosa, 62, of Salem, pleaded guilty in federal court to wire fraud, First Assistant United States Attorney Jay McCormack announced today.

According to court documents and statements made in court, Rosa defrauded New Hampshire Employment Security (NHES), which administers the unemployment insurance program in New Hampshire.

In March 2020, Congress passed legislation providing additional unemployment benefits to individuals who lost their jobs because of the economic upheaval caused by the coronavirus pandemic. At the time, Rosa controlled several companies located in Plaistow, including Environment and KSC Industrial. In late March 2020, Rosa and his co-defendant, George Advns, directed company employees to file for unemployment benefits with NHES while continuing to work. This caused the unemployment system to effectively pay the employees' salaries. As a result, NHES paid out almost \$50,000 in fraudulently obtained unemployment benefits.

Rosa is scheduled to be sentenced on May 10, 2023.

Adyns previously pled guilty on May 25, 2022 and is scheduled to be sentenced on February 15, 2023.

The case was investigated by the U.S. Defense Criminal Investigative Service, the U.S. Labor Department's Office of the Inspector General, New Hampshire Employment Security and the New Hampshire Attorney General's Office with assistance from the U.S. Naval Criminal Investigative Service. The case is being prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorneys Matthew T. Hunter and Alexander S. Chen.

###

Topic(s): Coronavirus

Component(s):

**USAO - New Hampshire** 

**Press Release Number:** 23-012