

PRESS RELEASE

Colonie Man Pleads Guilty to Unemployment Insurance Fraud

Thursday, February 29, 2024

For Immediate Release

U.S. Attorney's Office, Northern District of New York

Conviction Stems from False Claims Filed by Corrupt State Employee

ALBANY, NEW YORK – Rocco Resciniti, a/k/a “Rock,” age 50, of Colonie, New York, pled guilty today to conspiring to defraud the New York State Department of Labor (NYSDOL) by obtaining unemployment insurance benefits under the name of another person, including benefits funded by the federal government in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The announcement was made by United States Attorney Carla B. Freedman; Craig L. Tremaroli, Special Agent in Charge of the Albany Field Office of the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI); and Jonathan Mellone, Special Agent in Charge, North East Region, U.S. Department of Labor, Office of Inspector General (USDOL-OIG).

Resciniti admitted that he provided Carl J. DiVeglia III with the personal identifying information of three individuals, which DiVeglia used to file false claims via the NYSDOL website. Resciniti further admitted that as a result of the fraudulent applications submitted by DiVeglia, the NYSDOL paid \$69,718 in unemployment insurance benefits. As part of his plea agreement, Resciniti agreed to pay \$69,718 in restitution to the State of New York. DiVeglia [previously pled guilty](#) to fraudulently obtaining \$1.6 million in unemployment insurance benefits as part of the scheme. Charges against two of Resciniti’s three co-defendants, Todd Ward and Jamaine Myers, [are still pending](#); the charges against them are merely allegations, and they are presumed innocent unless and until proven guilty. The third co-defendant, Christopher Ward, pled [guilty](#) earlier this month.

Resciniti faces a maximum of 20 years in prison, a fine of up to \$250,000, and a term of supervised release of up to 3 years when he is sentenced on July 18, 2024 by United States District Judge Glenn T. Suddaby.

The FBI and USDOL-OIG are investigating this case, with assistance from the NYSDOL Office of Special Investigations. Assistant U.S. Attorneys Joseph S. Hartunian and Joshua R. Rosenthal are 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, 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>.

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