U.S. Department of Justice

Joseph Nocella, Jr.
United States Attorney
Eastern District of New York

271 Cadman Plaza East
Brooklyn, New York 11201

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE **July 20, 2026**

Contact:
John Marzulli
Denise Taylor
United States Attorney's Office
(718) 254-6323

PRESS RELEASE

EIGHT DEFENDANTS, INCLUDING CURRENT AND FORMER NEW YORK CITY CORRECTION OFFICERS, A TEXAS PAROLE OFFICER, AND A NEW YORK CITY TRANSIT AUTHORITY EMPLOYEE, CHARGED IN CHECK FRAUD SCHEME

Defendant Bianca Vieux Bragged That She Scams the Government and Banks, Not People

Earlier today, at the federal courthouse in Brooklyn, Bianca Vieux was arraigned on a superseding indictment charging Vieux and seven other defendants in a fraud scheme relating to deposits of falsified checks and the production of fraudulent Social Security cards. Vieux was arrested on July 7, 2026 in Fort Lauderdale, Florida. Steven Boyce, Daija-Nek Johnson, Michelle Wilson, and Valeria Waldron were arrested on June 18, 2026 and previously arraigned. Christopher Walker and Destiny Mendez were previously charged in the original indictment and their cases are pending. One additional defendant remains at large. In addition, in May 2026, two defendants charged in the original indictment, Aaron Warren and Tara Dildy, pleaded guilty to conspiracy to commit wire fraud and bank fraud and are awaiting sentencing.

Several of the defendants are current or former government employees. Walker is a New York City Correction Officer and made at least one fraudulent deposit while wearing his Department of Correction uniform. Waldron is a former New York City Correction Officer and was more recently employed as a parole officer with the Texas Department of Criminal Justice. Boyce is a track worker with the New York City Transit Authority. Warren and Dildy are also former New York City Correction Officers.

Joseph Nocella, Jr., United States Attorney for the Eastern District of New York; Harry T. Chavis, Jr., Special Agent in Charge, Internal Revenue Service-Criminal Investigation, New York (IRS-CI); and Nadia I. Shihata, Commissioner, New York City Department of Investigation (DOI), announced the arrests and charges in the superseding indictment.

“As alleged, the defendants conspired to create and deposit fake checks at various banks to line their own pockets at the expense of financial institutions,” stated United States Attorney Nocella. “It is particularly egregious when individuals who took an oath to uphold the law and serve the public, choose to commit serious federal crimes to serve themselves.”

“Public employees who exploit their positions for fraud don’t just break the law—they break the public’s trust. These defendants allegedly turned their access into a multi-million-dollar scheme built on fake checks, fraudulent documents, and deception. IRS-CI and our law enforcement partners will follow the money, cut through the lies, and hold anyone who abuses their authority fully accountable,” stated IRS-CI New York Special Agent in Charge Chavis.

“As alleged in the superseding indictment, Vieux, Johnson, Mendez, Walker, Waldron, and Wilson each participated in a scheme to deposit into bank accounts falsified checks made out to themselves from various entities. Vieux orchestrated the scheme, advertising her services on an encrypted messaging platform, and solicited recruits to provide their debit cards and bank account information. As Vieux herself said in a text message: “lol I scam the government not human beings[.] I don’t steal from people I still [sic] from banks[.]” Once Vieux received an accountholder’s banking information, she or another co-conspirator would deposit a falsified check into their account. If it cleared, the accountholder would travel to Queens to make large cash withdrawals in person at various bank branches, stated DOI Commissioner Shihata.

Johnson, Mendez, Walker, Waldron, and Wilson were each recruited to receive deposits of falsified checks into their bank accounts and, if the funds cleared, make large cash withdrawals from their accounts. Walker took the scheme further, hiring other fraudsters to create fake checks and documents for him. Boyce created fake Social Security cards for Walker in exchange for a fee and explicitly acknowledged in a text message that he was in the business of “fraudulent federal documents.”

In total, the defendants created and/or deposited over $3 million worth of fictitious checks and obtained over $500,000 in fraudulent proceeds. The defendants spent their stolen cash on luxury handbags, plastic surgery, and tropical vacations, among other personal expenses.

The charges in the superseding indictment are allegations, and the defendants are presumed innocent unless and until proven guilty.

The government’s case is being handled by the Office’s Public Integrity Section. Assistant United States Attorney Russell Noble is in charge of the prosecution, with the assistance of Paralegal Specialist Daniel Arakawa.

<u>The Defendants</u>:

BIANCA VIEUX
Age: 33

Fort Lauderdale, Florida

STEVEN BOYCE
Age: 32
Brooklyn, New York

DAIJA-NEK JOHNSON
Age: 21
Queens, New York

DESTINY MENDEZ
Age: 29
Brooklyn, New York

CHRISTOPHER WALKER
Age: 34
Queens, New York

VALERIA WALDRON
Age: 37
Pflugerville, Texas

MICHELLE WILSON
Age: 54
Fort Worth, Texas

Defendants Who Previously Pled Guilty:

AARON WARREN
Age: 36
Queens, New York

TARA DILDY
Age: 36
Queens, New York

E.D.N.Y. Docket No. 25-CR-271 (S-1) (NCM)