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UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT

FOR THE CENTRAL DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,) CR NO. $GR 100059$
Plaintiff,) <u>INFORMATION</u>
v.) [18 U.S.C. § 1343: Wire Fraud;) 18 U.S.C. § 2: Aiding and
JON WELDON JAMES,) Abetting and Causing an Act To) Be Done]
Defendant.)
)
)

The United States Attorney charges:

COUNT ONE

[18 U.S.C. §§ 1343, 2]

INTRODUCTION

At all times relevant to this information:

- 1. Defendant JON WELDON JAMES ("JAMES") lived in Los Angeles County, California.
- 2. Defendant JAMES controlled numerous business entities through which he engaged in the investment fraud scheme described in this information. The business entities included, among BEK/MRW

others: J.W. James and Associates, Inc. ("JWJA"); J.W. James
Acquistions, LLC; J.W. Borrowing Entity, LLC; J.W. James
Investment Group Fund One, LLC; Virtual Cash Flow Corporation;
and The Cloaking Device, Inc. (collectively "the James
Entities"). The James Entities generally operated from offices
located in Los Angeles County.

THE SCHEME TO DEFRAUD INVESTORS

- 3. Beginning in or about December 2003, and continuing until at least in or about August 2006, in Los Angeles County, within the Central District of California, and elsewhere, defendant JAMES, aided and abetted by others known and unknown to the United States Attorney, knowingly and with intent to defraud, devised, participated in, and executed a scheme to defraud investors as to material matters, and to obtain money and property from such investors by means of material false and fraudulent pretenses, representations, and promises, and the concealment of material facts.
- 4. During the course of this scheme, defendant JAMES marketed real estate-related investments to investors. Defendant JAMES solicited funds from individual investors through the use of investment and promissory note agreements. The agreements promised investors a predetermined rate of return, generally ranging from eight to twenty-four percent, for the term of the agreement.
- 5. Defendant JAMES located potential investors through word-of-mouth techniques, including hosting meetings at restaurants at which he gave presentations about his real estate investment offerings. At these meetings, defendant JAMES touted

- his personal and professional experience in the real estate field, his numerous contacts in the real estate and financial industries, and the past successes he shared with his earlier investors. Defendant JAMES encouraged individuals to invest their savings with him, including money that they had in their Individual Retirement Accounts.
- 6. In carrying out his scheme to defraud, defendant JAMES engaged in, and caused others to engage in, the following materially fraudulent and deceptive acts, practices, and devices, among others:
 - a. Defendant JAMES told investors that he intended to use investor funds to invest solely in real estate and related operational expenses.
 - b. Defendant JAMES told investors that they would profit from the collection of rent and the resale of real estate that had been purchased or would be purchased.
 - c. Defendant JAMES told investors that their individual investment returns would be paid from the profits of the real estate-related investments.
 - d. Some investors received periodic account statements, which purported to show the total amount of funds invested through defendant JAMES and the increased value of that investment.
 - e. At the end of the term of a promissory note agreement, some investors received payments from certain of the James Entities. Defendant JAMES

claimed that these payments represented investment earnings derived from real estate-related investments. However, defendant JAMES typically urged investors to forego repayment of their investment and, instead, to "roll over" their investment for an additional period of time.

- 7. Based on the foregoing materially fraudulent and deceptive acts, practices, and devices, defendant JAMES took in approximately \$33 million from investors over the course of the scheme.
- 8. In truth and in fact, as he well knew, defendant James did not invest in real estate-related investments on behalf of investors for most of the period of the fraud scheme. By the time that defendant JAMES's businesses were closed by federal court order in mid-2006, none of the five properties that defendant JAMES purchased using investor funds had generated any profits for investors. Overall, defendant JAMES and his businesses earned no net income from any real estate-related investments during this period.
- 9. Instead of making real estate-related investments as he promised investors, defendant JAMES fraudulently misappropriated investor funds. Defendant JAMES used these funds for, among other things:
 - a. His own personal expenses, including the costs of his wedding and a luxury vehicle;
 - b. The operating expenses of the James Entities;

- c. An investment in a recording studio and production company named "On the Ball Entertainment" and K.B. d.b.a. "On the Ball"; and
 d. Repaying millions of dollars to investors who requested withdrawals of their investments or
- requested withdrawals of their investments or making purported interest payments from certain of the James Entities under the guise of investor earnings.
- 10. Moreover, the periodic account statements that defendant JAMES caused to be sent to some investors were false in that the investments of these individuals did not have the increased value stated on the statements.

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THE INTERSTATE WIRING

11. On or about the date set forth below, within the Central District of California, and elsewhere, defendant JAMES, individually and with others known and unknown to the United States Attorney, for the purpose of executing the above-described scheme to defraud, caused the transmission of the following by means of a wire communication in interstate commerce:

COUNT	DATE	WIRE TRANSMISSION
ONE	4/20/05	Wire transfer of \$424,413.70 from a bank account of Pensco Trust Company, on behalf of investor K.T., through the Federal Reserve Bank processing center in New Jersey, to the Union Bank of California account of JWJA in Manhattan Beach, California

GEORGE S. CARDONA Acting United States Attorney

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