

WHITE HOUSE LOST TRILLIONS OF TAXPAYER DOLLARS GIVING CASH AWAY TO CROOKS AND INSIDERS

Fri, 14 Jul 2023 20:20:26, admin45789, [category: news, post_tag: white-house-lost-trillions-of-taxpayer-dollars-giving-cash-away-to-crooks-and-insiders]

PPP fraud is ‘worst in history’: \$200B stolen and blown on Lamborghinis, beach houses and bling

- 10% for the Boss - For his political campaign

By
[Jeanette Settembre](#)

MORE ON:[FRAUD](#)

- [‘Despicable’ son faked dead mom’s voice to con grieving dad out of \\$70K](#)
- [Top Biden official ripped for no-showing hearing on \\$200 billion COVID-19 fraud: ‘This is a big deal’](#)
- [Feds charge second Frank exec with defrauding JPMorgan in \\$175M deal](#)
- [How NY Dems used the COVID crisis to waste YOUR money](#)

Tens of thousands of fraudsters splurged on Lamborghinis, vacation homes, private jet flights and Cartier jewelry by fleecing the PPP loan system in a \$200 billion heist — and did it because the COVID loan scheme was so easy to milk.

Approximately \$1.2 trillion was rushed through Congress in 2020 and 2021 in COVID bailout cash for businesses and spent on the Economic Injury Disaster Loan Program (EIDL) and the Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) schemes.

But a new report from the [Small Business Administration’s Office of Inspector General](#) reveals an astonishing 17% vanished to fraud — an estimated total of \$200 billion.

And the SBA says it estimates there are more than 90,000 “actionable leads,” while it has already prosecuted dozens — including a former New York Jets wide receiver, Josh Bellamy.



This \$318,000 Lamborghini Huracan Evo is just the tip of the \$200 billion PPP fraud iceberg.
US Postal Inspection Service



Miami-based David Hines spent thousands in COVID relief money at high-end shops, a Miami hotel and sent \$30,000 in taxpayer cash to "Mom," records show.
US Postal Inspection Service

The spending spree on taxpayer dollars includes Donald Finley, owner of the now-shuttered Manhattan theme restaurant Jekyll & Hyde, [who purchased a Nantucket home](#) across from Dionis Beach with waterfront views with millions of dollars from PPP and EIDL.

Finley faces up to 30 years in prison, and paying more than \$3.2 million in restitution, plus a \$1.25 million fine.

And experts say crooks created fake businesses or lied about their numbers of employees to get access to more free cash — because it was so simple to fleece the taxpayer.



Donald Finley used PPP and EIDL loans to go on a spending spree.
Marisol Diaz/Newsday via AP



Finley, the owner of the now-shuttered Manhattan theme restaurant Jekyll & Hyde, faces up to 30 years in prison, according to reports.
William Raveis Nantucket

"The fraud was so easy to commit. All of the information was self-reported and none of it was verified or checked," Haywood Talcove of LexisNexis Risk Solutions told The Post.

"During the height of the pandemic, it was really hard to purchase [luxury] items like a Rolls-Royce, or a high-end Mercedes because you had people walking in with cash from the PPP program to purchase those items for whatever the dealer was asking," Talcove said.

Justice might finally be catching up with some of the fraudsters: A total of 803 arrests have taken place as of May 2023 for pandemic fraud, the SBA said.

\$30,000 for 'Mom'



Hines pleaded guilty to one count of wire fraud.

There does not appear to be any business purpose for most, if not all, of these expenses.

<u>Date</u>	<u>Payee</u>	<u>Amount</u>
5/13/20	"Mom"	\$15,000.00
5/14/20	HINES cash	\$9,500.00
5/27/20	"Mom"	\$15,000.00
5/27/20	Saks Fifth Ave	\$4,622.40
6/3/20	Subject B	\$15,000.00
6/5/20	Fontainebleau Miami	\$4,089.00
6/8/20	HINES cash	\$9,500.00
6/8/20	Subject A	\$10,000.00
6/9/20	Subject C	\$15,000.00
6/10/20	The Setai Hotel Miami Beach	\$7,264.97
6/10/20	Subject C	\$6,200.00
6/15/20	Subject D	\$5,000.00
6/15/20	Graff Diamonds	\$8,530.00
6/22/20	The Miami Beach E	\$5,988.02

This was how prosecutors detailed part of his spending spree as he blasted through \$130,000 in just over a month, sending \$30,000 to "Mom" alone.
US Postal Inspection Service

Florida-based David Hines, 29, from Miami, used \$3.9 million in PPP money [to buy himself a \\$318,000 Lamborghini Huracan Evo sports car.](#)

The gased-up fraudster was caught when authorities seized the sports car and \$3.4 million from bank accounts.

He pleaded guilty to one count of wire fraud. Records show he spent thousands at high-end shops and a Miami hotel, and sent \$30,000 of taxpayer cash to "Mom."

In Jacksonville, Fla., Kenneth Landers [pleaded guilty to fraud in February](#) after using PPP funds totaling \$910,000 [to pay off his mortgage](#) at home and at his business property.

Vintage car, gold Rolex



Kenneth Landers spent PPP loan money on this 18-carat gold Rolex watch and vintage Jaguar XK-E, among other personal expenses.



Landers spent the cash on a vintage Jaguar XK-E, or E-Type, Roadster, and is facing 30 years behind bars. Barrett-Jackson via Getty Images

But then he shelled out for an 18-carat gold Rolex watch and vintage Jaguar XK-E, or E-Type, Roadster.

He made a staggering \$113,000 in cash withdrawals traced back to the PPP loans received.

Landers face a maximum penalty of 30 years in federal prison.

In similar expensive taste on taxpayer money, Georgia-based Darrell Thomas was [sentenced to 15 years in prison](#) for spending PPP funds on a Mercedes-Benz S-Class, a Land Rover, and an Acura NSX in addition to a gold Rolex.

Thomas pleaded guilty to conspiracy to commit bank fraud and to money laundering for heading a scheme to obtain 14 fraudulent loans amassing \$11.1 million from the PPP.



Darrell Thomas picked up a Mercedes S-Class like this with his ill-gotten gains.



Thomas also bought himself an Acura NSX like this. But he cannot enjoy them anymore: He is spending 15 years in prison.
Getty Images

Restaurant scammer who also bars dogs

In April, Manhattan restaurateur Besim Kukaj was [revealed to have scammed \\$6.1 million](#) in bogus loans to his restaurant group.

He owned Manhattan's Intermezzo, Limon Jungle, and Cara Mia, which are all now closed.

But officials said he splurged on designer jewelry and clothing.

"He did this out of pure greed, sending some of this money to a Florida real estate developer and using it to buy luxury items from Cartier and Hugo Boss," said Damian Williams, US attorney for the Southern District of New York.



Manhattan restaurateur Besim Kukaj refused to allow registered service dogs into his restaurants and failed to turn up at hearings for the violations in 2019.



Besim Kukaj used his restaurants, including Intermezzo in Hell's Kitchen, Manhattan, as a front for a \$6.1 million bogus loan scheme, then splurged on Cartier and Hugo Boss.

Robert Miller

"And he didn't stop there. He directed his co-conspirator to physically threaten a victim to whom he owed money."

The relentless fraudster pursued pandemic aid even after getting arrested and released on bail, the prosecutor said. Kukaj, whose restaurants previously barred diners with service dogs from entering, started a six-year, eight-month sentence at Fort Dix federal prison in New Jersey on Tuesday.

Plastic surgery and luxe travel

In February, Leslie Bethea, of Surgoinsville, Tennessee, was sentenced to 78 months in prison for fraudulently obtaining a \$20,805 loan in 2021.

She had claimed she was due the money because she had lost out on her 2019 income of more than \$90,000 because of the pandemic.

But that was impossible because she was in prison in 2019 for fraud, [prosecutors said](#).

Bethea used the scammed cash to fund a five-day trip at a resort in Sunny Isles Beach, Florida, according to court records.



Leslie Bethea, of Surgoinsville, Tennessee, was sentenced to 78 months in prison for fraudulently obtaining a \$20,805 loan in 2021. Hawkins County Sheriff's Office



Bethea headed for Sunny Isles, Florida, got cosmetic surgeries, and enjoyed five days away courtesy of a loan secured through lies. AFP via Getty Images

She also used some of the dough for vanity — paying for plastic surgery during her trip. What she got done was not revealed by prosecutors.

And in April, Houston man Scott Jackson Davis was sent to prison and ordered to pay back \$3.3 million after fraudulently receiving PPP loans for three fake businesses.

Instead of saving people's jobs, he splurged on private jet travel, real estate, jewelry, guns, and a luxury vehicle, prosecutors said.

Ex-Jet received your cash

Former NFL player Josh Bellamy obtained a \$1.2 million loan for his company, Drip Entertainment LLC, in 2021 using falsified documents and false information.



Former New York Jets wide receiver Josh Bellamy obtained a \$1.2 million loan for his company, Drip Entertainment LLC, in 2021 using falsified documents and false information.
AP



Bellamy did not spend the COVID bailout helping staff. Instead, he headed to the Seminole Hard Rock Hotel and Casino in Hollywood, Fla.
AFP via Getty Images

Bellamy — a Jets wide receiver from March 2019 until he was released because of injury in September 2020 — admitted to using the loan to fund a stay at the Seminole Hard Rock Hotel and Casino in Hollywood, Fla., and jewelry, admitting to investigators he shelled out more than \$311,000 to a reported co-conspirator.