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8 IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
9 FOR THE DISTRICT OF ARIZONA

10 United States of America,
11 Plaintiff,
12 vs.
13 Brannen Sage Mehaffey,
14 Defendant.

No. CR20-0626-PHX-DWL

INFORMATION

VIO: 18 U.S.C. § 1960(a), (b)(1)(B) and
(b)(1)(C)
(Unlicensed Money Transmitting
Business)
Count 1

18 U.S.C. §§ 981, 982
28 U.S.C. § 2461(c)
Forfeiture Allegation

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18 THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY’S OFFICE CHARGES:

19 At all times relevant to this Information, within the District of Arizona and
20 elsewhere:

21 1. BRANNEN SAGE MEHAFFEY (“MEHAFFEY”) operated a money
22 transmitting business in Austin, Texas that specialized in the exchange of virtual currency
23 for cash. MEHAFFEY charged a transaction fee of up to 8% for this service. Between
24 January 2018 and October 2020 MEHAFFEY moved in excess of \$3,000,000 through bank
25 accounts controlled by him or his companies. MEHAFFEY exchanged virtual currency
26 for cash in person (through peer-to-peer sales) and also through his network of bitcoin
27 ATMs placed in brick-and-mortar businesses (such as computer repair companies, smoke
28 shops and a strip club) in and around the Austin region.

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FORFEITURE ALLEGATION

7. The factual allegations above are incorporated in the forfeiture allegation.

8. Pursuant to 18 U.S.C. §§ 981(a)(1)(C) and 982, and 28 U.S.C. § 2461(c), and upon conviction of Count One of this Information, defendant shall forfeit to the United States of America any property, real or personal, which constitutes or is derived from proceeds traceable to the offense.

9. If any of the property described above, as a result of any act or omission of the defendant: (a) cannot be located upon the exercise of due diligence; (b) has been transferred or sold to, or deposited with, a third party; (c) has been placed beyond the jurisdiction of the court; (d) has been substantially diminished in value; or (e) has been commingled with other property which cannot be divided without difficulty, the United States of America shall be entitled to forfeiture of substitute property pursuant to 21 U.S.C. § 853(p), as incorporated by 18 U.S.C. § 982(b)(1) and 28 U.S.C. § 2461(c).

All pursuant to 18 U.S.C. §§ 981(a)(1)(C) and 982(a)(1), 28 U.S.C. § 2461(c), and Rule 32.2(a) Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure.

Dated this 24th day of November, 2021.

GARY M. RESTAINO
United States Attorney
District of Arizona



CAITLIN NOEL
Assistant U.S. Attorney