

Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PLYMOUTH DISTRICT

OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY

MAIN OFFICE: 166 MAIN STREET BROCKTON, MA 02301 TEL: (508) 584-8120

TIMOTHY J. CRUZ
DISTRICT ATTORNEY

NEWS RELEASE MAY 12, 2023

TWO PEOPLE INDICTED IN SCHEME TO CASH IN STOLEN QUICK PICK FOR \$3M JACKPOT

CONTACT: BETH STONE

(508) 584-8120

BROCKTON – Two people have been indicted on charges that they schemed to steal a winning lottery ticket and attempted to cash it in at Massachusetts State Lottery Headquarters, Plymouth County District Attorney Timothy J. Cruz has announced.

Today, a Plymouth County grand jury returned indictments charging Carly Nunes, 23, of Lakeville, with one count each of Larceny from a Building, Attempted Larceny, Presentation of a False Claim, and Witness Intimidation. Additionally, the grand jury indicted Joseph Reddem, 32, of Manchester, N.H. on one count of Attempted Extortion.

The indictments follow a four-month investigation by Massachusetts State Police, the Massachusetts State Lottery Commission, and Lakeville Police, which involved a voluminous review of records, video surveillance footage, and witness interviews. On January 17, 2023, the victim, a man, who is not being identified, entered the store formerly known as Savas Liquors, located at 330 Bedford Street in Lakeville and purchased a bag of barbecue potato chips, two Massachusetts State Lottery Quick Picks for the Mega Millions lottery, and two for the Mass Cash lottery. The man added a multiplier to his Mega Millions ticket to increase the jackpot prize. Nunes, the checkout counter clerk, input the order into the lottery terminal, and printed two lottery tickets. Nunes returned to the cash register and rang up the man's order, totaling \$12.

The man left the store and drove home with the bag of potato chips, but left his lottery tickets behind in the lottery terminal tray. That evening, the man's identical Mass Millions ticket numbers were announced as the winning numbers, earning a \$3 million prize. After leaving the store and realizing he no longer had his tickets, the man briefly searched for them but concluded that they were lost.

Approximately 45 minutes after the man left the store, another patron entered to buy five lottery tickets. Nunes rang up the transaction and printed the lottery tickets. It is at this point, the patron realized two extra tickets had been printed, and gave the extra two

belonging to the victim back to Nunes. Nunes took the tickets and said they must have belonged to "him," meaning the victim.

Two days later, on January 19, 2023, Reddem, a co-worker at Savas, drove Nunes and her boyfriend, to the Massachusetts State Lottery Headquarters in Dorchester to redeem the lottery prize. The ticket was torn and appeared to be burned. Nunes wrote up and submitted her claim for the winning prize. A state Lottery customer service representative scanned the ticket and determined the worth to be "three million dollars." When informed, Nunes and her boyfriend embraced and celebrated.

Shortly thereafter, Nunes and Reddem are seen on Lottery surveillance video arguing in the lobby. Reddem allegedly made demands of the jackpot and Nunes informed Reddem that she would "only pay him \$200,000."

The arguments overheard by state Lottery officials coupled with the condition of the ticket, led Massachusetts Lottery investigators to interview Nunes. Nunes, stated that she purchased the winning tickets toward the end of her shift on January 17, 2023. Nunes stated that she mistakenly tore the ticket when removing it from her wallet and the burn marks were the result of her accidentally placing the ticket on a pipe. Lottery officials informed Nunes that they were opening an investigation and that she would receive the jackpot prize at the conclusion of that investigation. Lottery officials contacted Massachusetts State Police and an investigation commenced.

Surveillance video obtained from the Savas store confirmed that the male victim, not Nunes, purchased the winning ticket. During a further interview with investigators, Nunes no longer claimed to have purchased the ticket herself, but instead said she inadvertently obtained the winning ticket.

It was nearly a month before the man realized his mistake in leaving the \$3 million ticket behind at Savas Liquors. Investigators worked to find the true victim/owner of the winning ticket, posting flyers with screengrab shots of the man in surveillance video, canvassing the Lakeville area, and questioning patrons about the man's identity. After nearly a month, on February 13, 2023, the man was located and interviewed by investigators.

The Massachusetts State Lottery Commission intends to honor the victim's claim on the \$3 million jackpot.

Nunes and Reddem will be arraigned on the indictments at a later date.

The case is being prosecuted by Assistant District Attorney Alexander Zane, and was investigated by Massachusetts State Police Troopers assigned to state Treasurer Deborah B. Goldberg's Office, Lakeville Police Department, and the Massachusetts State Lottery Commission.