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Casey Crowther pleads not guilty to new federal charges

by Vanessa Bein — 5:10 PM EDT, Fri October 30, 2020 AA



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LEE COUNTY, Fla. – The Fort Myers roofer accused of pocketing COVID-19 relief money is facing more federal charges.

Casey Crowther, owner of Target Roofing, is facing bank fraud, making a false statement to a lending institution, illegal monetary transactions, and now, mortgage fraud.

If convicted on all counts, Crowther faces a maximum penalty of 30 years in federal prison on each bank fraud and false statement count, and up to 10 years for each illegal monetary transaction count.

Investigators believe the businessman bought a 40-foot catamaran and home in St. James City using COVID-19 relief money meant to keep his business afloat during the pandemic. Crowther used his company's PPP money to buy the boat, as well as falsifying his bank account to make it seem like he had enough money to be approved for a mortgage for the St. James City property, according to federal documents.

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A superseding indictment confirmed the mortgage fraud against Crowther. He was originally arrested in September for the first slew of charges.

Over the last several months, Crowther's attorney has maintained his innocence, claiming all of this is a misrepresentation.

At a hearing on Friday, Oct. 30, a judge read Crowther's charges. His attorney said that they're pleading not guilty.

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