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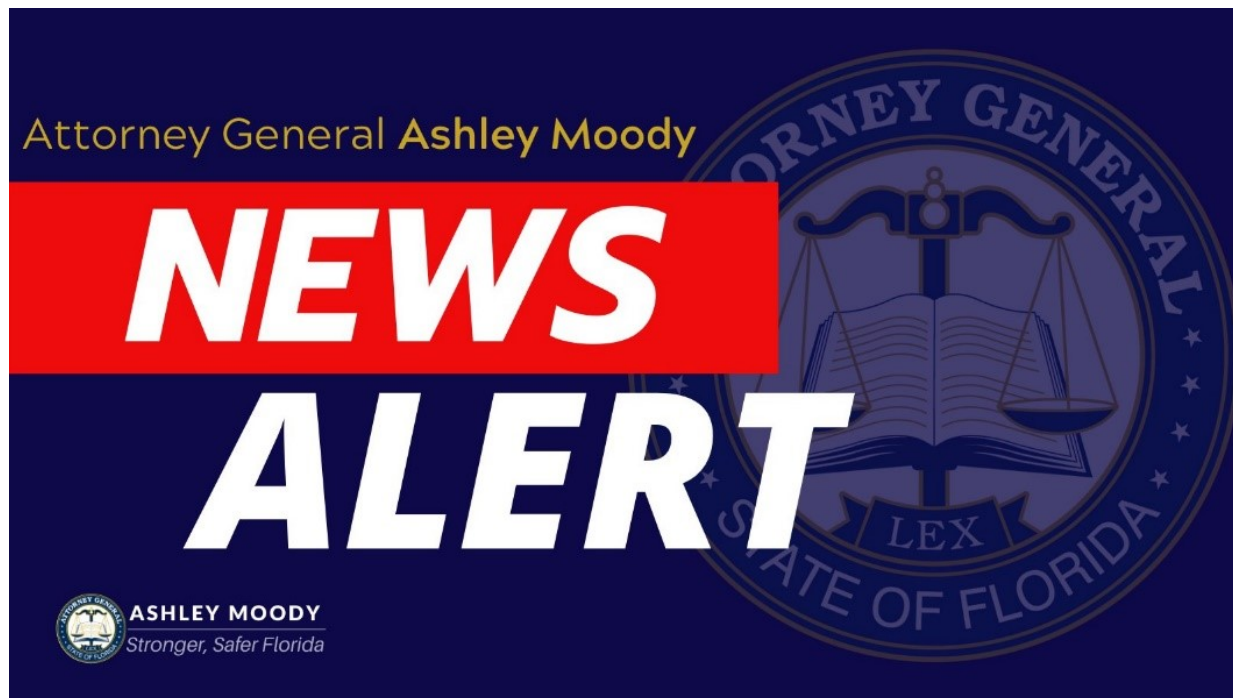
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OFFICE OF THE
ATTORNEY GENERAL
STATE OF FLORIDA

Florida Attorney General's Office News Release

Prison Sentence Secured for Scam Artist Committing Real Estate and Property Crimes



TALLAHASSEE, Fla.—Attorney General Ashley Moody’s Office of Statewide Prosecution secured a multi-year prison sentence for a scammer that committed multiple white-collar crimes involving real estate and advertising property. Tabria Josey, along with an accomplice, fraudulently listed underdeveloped plots of land with homebuilding or investment potential in several Florida counties. Josey stole from more than 40 victims, causing more than \$300,000 in losses.

Attorney General Ashley Moody said, “This duo laid traps to gain the trust of potential buyers, forcing them to fork over a heavy down payment before cutting off all ties to line their pockets. I’m proud of my Office of Statewide Prosecution for taking down the ringleader of the operation, along with gaining restitution for the victims that suffered through this scheme.”

The duo listed properties on different websites, none Josey or the accomplice owned, for sale and posed as listing agents, sellers and/or representatives from a fictitious title company. Once a potential buyer made contact, Josey and the accomplice then convinced any victim interested in a property to wire money for a down payment and then cut off communications.

While the duo charged the majority of victims from \$2,500 to \$7,500, some lost between \$15,000 to \$25,000. More than \$300,000 in restitution will be given back to the individual victims.

Josey primarily operated out of Palm Beach County, but fraudulently listed land property in all of the following counties: Flagler, Hillsborough, Indian River, Lee, Orange, Palm Beach and St. Lucie.

OSP filed the case in Lee County due to the fact that many of the victims and listed properties are in Lee County.

Josey pleaded guilty and is convicted of organized fraud in the first degree, organized fraud in the third degree, grand theft; a third-degree felony, aggravated white-collar crime; a first-degree felony, money laundering; a first-degree felony, and two counts of communications fraud in the third degree.

Josey is sentenced to six years in prison, followed by nine years of probation. The other defendant's case is still pending.

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