

PRESS RELEASE

Former FBI Agent Indicted On Charges Of Cyberstalking, Witness Tampering, And Obstruction Of Criminal Investigation

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For Immediate Release

U.S. Attorney's Office, Northern District of California

OAKLAND - A federal grand jury has indicted Paul Raymond Flood with cyberstalking, witness tampering, and obstruction of a criminal investigation by bribery. Flood, 54, of Castro Valley, was arrested yesterday and made his initial appearance in federal court this morning.

According to the indictment, which was filed May 16, 2024, and unsealed today, Flood was a Special Agent with the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) from 2007 through 2019. In early October 2018, Flood met a first-year law student, referred to in the indictment as "Victim-1" or "V-1," who had contacted him for information on pursuing a future career with the FBI. A family member of V-1's, referred to in the indictment as "B-1," knew Flood and referred V-1 to him.

Within a few weeks of meeting V-1, Flood allegedly began to make unwelcome romantic advances toward V-1 and engage in a pattern of harassing and intimidating conduct. The indictment charges that, among other conduct, Flood had a diamond ring delivered to V-1 in mid-October 2018; used different numbers and messaging applications to call and text V-1, creating and using at least 79 different numbers between mid-October 2018 through September 2019; sent messages demonstrating that he was surveilling V-1 and her family; and repeatedly pressured B-1 to have V-1 call or unblock Flood.

Although V-1 initially did not report Flood due to her family's fear of retaliation, V-1 reported him in June 2019 to federal and local law enforcement authorities. Shortly thereafter, the FBI suspended Flood from duty and the Department of Justice Office of the Inspector General (DOJ OIG) opened an investigation into Flood's conduct. In response, Flood allegedly employed various means to pressure, harass, intimidate, and

persuade V-1 to help him by not providing statements or testimony in the investigations against him, including threatening to commit suicide, offering V-1 various bribes, and pressuring V-1's family members to persuade her not to cooperate with law enforcement. Flood allegedly succeeded in persuading V-1 to help him obstruct the pending investigations. This included V-1's evading multiple attempts by DOJ OIG investigators to contact her for an interview and to serve her with a federal grand jury subpoena in July 2019. According to the indictment, Flood also persuaded V-1 to agree to enter a sham marriage with him so that she would not have to testify against him, buying her a \$17,000 engagement ring in the process. V-1 did not follow through with the sham marriage plan.

The indictment charges Flood with one count of cyberstalking in violation of 18 U.S.C. § 2261A(2)(B), two counts of witness tampering by intimidation, threats, corrupt persuasion, or misleading conduct in violation of 18 U.S.C. §§ 1512(b)(2) and (b)(3), one count of witness tampering by harassment in violation of 18 U.S.C. §§ 1512(d), and one count of obstruction of a criminal investigation by bribery in violation of 18 U.S.C. § 1510(a).

An indictment merely alleges that crimes have been committed. All defendants are presumed innocent until proven guilty beyond a reasonable doubt. If convicted, Flood faces a maximum sentence of 20 years in prison on each witness tampering count under 18 U.S.C. § 1512(b), three years in prison on the witness tampering count under 18 U.S.C. § 1512(d), and five years in prison on each count of cyberstalking and obstruction. Any sentence following conviction would be imposed by the court after consideration of the U.S. Sentencing Guidelines and the federal statute governing the imposition of a sentence, 18 U.S.C. § 3553.

Flood is currently on conditional release. His next appearance in federal court is scheduled for Jan. 15, 2025.

United States Attorney Ismail J. Ramsey and Zachary Shroyer, Special Agent in Charge of DOJ OIG Western Region, made the announcement.

Assistant United States Attorney Anne C. Hsieh is prosecuting the case with the assistance of Mimi Lam, Lakisha Holliman, and Helen Yee. The prosecution is the result of an investigation by DOJ OIG, with assistance from the FBI and Homeland Security Investigations.

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