



ERIK NASARENKO
District Attorney

NEWS RELEASE

www.vcdistrictattorney.com

Twitter: [@VenturaDAOoffice](https://twitter.com/VenturaDAOoffice) Facebook: [@VCDAOoffice](https://www.facebook.com/VCDAOoffice) Instagram: [@VCDAOoffice](https://www.instagram.com/VCDAOoffice)

Contact: Howard Wise
Title: Senior Deputy District Attorney
Telephone: (805) 232-3537
Email: Howard.Wise@Ventura.org

Approved: KBD
Date: Thursday, December 23, 2021
Release No.: 21-126

Defendant Sentenced to Prison for Conspiring to Steal Unemployment Insurance Benefits

VENTURA, California – District Attorney Erik Nasarenko announced today that Andi Zois (DOB 05/27/84), AKA Simon Ondik, of Sibiu, Romania, was sentenced to 16 months in state prison for conspiring to steal unemployment insurance benefits from the California Employment Development Department (EDD). Zois was convicted of multiple felonies including grand theft, identity theft and conspiracy to make false unemployment insurance applications. He was also convicted of providing a false name to a police officer. Prior to his sentencing, Zois paid full restitution of \$17,745 to the EDD.

In August 2021, Moorpark police investigated multiple reports from residents stating they had not applied for unemployment insurance (UI) benefits, but that EDD issued benefits in their names. The UI funds were sent to multiple Bank of America (B of A) accounts. On August 23, 2021, Moorpark police surveilled a Moorpark ATM and observed Zois using multiple cloned debit cards to access B of A accounts. A cloned card has the electronic information obtained from a legitimate card re-encoded on a second card. Bank surveillance photos showed Zois, and an unidentified co-conspirator, withdrawing fraudulently obtained UI benefits in Moorpark and Los Angeles. When arrested, Zois claimed his name was Simon Ondik and used a false passport in an attempt to bolster his false claim. This case was prosecuted by the District Attorney’s Office Fraud and Technology Crimes Unit and investigated by the Ventura County Sheriff’s Office, with assistance from the California Employment Development Department.

###

The Ventura County District Attorney’s Office is the public prosecutor for the county’s 850,000 residents. The office employs approximately 290 employees including attorneys, investigators, victim advocates, and professional support staff who strive to seek justice, ensure public safety, and protect the rights of crime victims.