

**IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE FIFTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
IN AND FOR LAKE COUNTY, FLORIDA**

STATE OF FLORIDA

CASE NUMBER: 2025-CF-

v.

YING ZHANG

MARCOS R. LOPEZ

SHARON FEDRICK

SHELDON WETHERHOLT, and

CAROL COTE

Defendants.

INFORMATION

COUNT 1:

RACKETEERING

F.S. 895.03(3)

First Degree Felony - Level 8

All Defendants

COUNT 2:

**CONSPIRACY TO COMMIT
RACKETEERING**

F.S. 895.03(4)

First Degree Felony - Level 7

All Defendants

IN THE NAME AND BY THE AUTHORITY OF THE STATE OF FLORIDA

**COUNT 1
RACKETEERING**

STATEWIDE PROSECUTOR, for the State of Florida, by and through the undersigned Assistant Statewide Prosecutors, under oath **CHARGES** that beginning on or about August 25, 2019, and continuing through on or about August 27, 2024 in the Fifth and Ninth Judicial Circuits, to wit: Lake, Orange, and Osceola Counties, Florida, **YING ZHANG, MARCOS R. LOPEZ,**

SHARON FEDERICK, SHELDON WETHERHOLT, AND CAROL COTE, while employed by or associated with an enterprise as defined in Florida Statute 895.02(5) did conduct or participate, directly or indirectly, in such enterprise, through a continuous pattern of racketeering activity, as defined in Florida Statute 895.02(7), Florida Statutes, committing crimes chargeable by information under Chapters 838, 849, 896, and 934 Florida Statutes, by engaging in at least two incidents of racketeering activity which had similar intents, results, accomplices, victims, or methods of commission, or were otherwise related by distinguishing characteristics and were not isolated incidents including, but not limited to:

Predicate Incident 1
Unlawful Use of Two-Communications Device

On or about August 25, 2019, and continuing through on or about December 31, 2019, **YING ZHANG, MARCOS R. LOPEZ, SHARON FEDRICK, SHELDON WETHERHOLT, CAROL COTE** and others known, and unknown, did use a two-way communications device, including, but not limited to, a portable two-way wireless communications device, to facilitate or further the commission of a felony offense in violation of Florida Statute 934.215.

Predicate Incident 2
Unlawful Use of Two-Communications Device

On or about January 1, 2020, and continuing through on or about December 31, 2020, **YING ZHANG, MARCOS R. LOPEZ, SHARON FEDRICK, SHELDON WETHERHOLT, CAROL COTE** and others known, and unknown, did use a two-way communications device, including, but not limited to, a portable two-way wireless communications device, to facilitate or further the commission of a felony offense in violation of Florida Statute 934.215.

Predicate Incident 3
Unlawful Use of Two-Communications Device

On or about January 1, 2021, and continuing through on or about December 31, 2021, **YING ZHANG, MARCOS R. LOPEZ, SHARON FEDRICK, SHELDON WETHERHOLT, CAROL COTE** and others known, and unknown, did use a two-way communications device, including, but not limited to, a portable two-way wireless communications device, to facilitate or further the commission of a felony offense in violation of Florida Statute 934.215.

Predicate Incident 4
Unlawful Use of Two-Communications Device

On or about January 1, 2022, and continuing through on or about December 31, 2022, **YING ZHANG, MARCOS R. LOPEZ, SHARON FEDRICK, SHELDON WETHERHOLT, CAROL COTE** and others known, and unknown, did use a two-way communications device,

including, but not limited to, a portable two-way wireless communications device, to facilitate or further the commission of a felony offense in violation of Florida Statute 934.215.

Predicate Incident 5
Unlawful Use of Two-Communications Device

On or about January 1, 2023, and continuing through on or about December 31, 2023, **MARCOS R. LOPEZ, SHARON FEDRICK, SHELDON WETHERHOLT, CAROL COTE** and others known, and unknown, did use a two-way communications device, including, but not limited to, a portable two-way wireless communications device, to facilitate or further the commission of a felony offense in violation of Florida Statute 934.215.

Predicate Incident 6
Money Laundering

Beginning on or about October 2, 2019 and continuing through October 7, 2019, **YING ZHANG, MARCOS R. LOPEZ**, and others known, and unknown, did, knowing that the property involved in the financial transaction represents the proceeds of some unlawful activity, conduct or attempt to conduct a financial transaction which in fact involves the proceeds of specified unlawful activity knowing that the transaction is designed in whole or in part to conceal or disguise the nature, the location, the source, the ownership, or the control of the proceeds of specified unlawful activity in violation of Florida Statute 896.101(3)(a)(2)(a) and the financial transaction exceeded \$300 but was less than \$20,000 in any 12-month period as proscribed in Florida Statute 896.101(5)(a).

Predicate Incident 7
Lottery

Beginning on or about June 1, 2022, and continuing through on or about December 31, 2022, **YING ZHANG, MARCOS R. LOPEZ, SHELDON WETHERHOLT** and others known, and unknown, did own, operate, manage, and/or control an establishment known as Fusion Social Club, LLC d/b/a Eclipse Social Club located at 4561 W. Irlo Bronson Memorial Hwy, Kissimmee, Osceola County, Florida, which set up, promoted, or conducted a lottery for money or for something of value in violation of Florida Statute 849.09.

Predicate Incident 8
Unlawful Possession of Slot Machines

Beginning on or about June 1, 2022, and continuing through on or about December 31, 2022, **YING ZHANG, MARCOS R. LOPEZ, SHELDON WETHERHOLT** and others known, and unknown, did own, operate, manage, and/or control an establishment known as Fusion Social Club, LLC d/b/a Eclipse Social Club located at 4561 W. Irlo Bronson Memorial Hwy, Kissimmee, Osceola County, Florida, which was utilized to own, store, keep, and/or possess a slot machine as defined in Florida Statute 849.16 and in violation of Florida Statute 849.15.

Predicate Incident 9
Keeping Gambling Houses

Beginning on or about June 1, 2022, and continuing through on or about December 31, 2022, **YING ZHANG, MARCOS R. LOPEZ**, and others known, and unknown, did own, operate, manage, and/or control an establishment known as Fusion Social Club, LLC d/b/a Eclipse Social Club located at 4561 W Irlo Bronson Memorial Hwy, Kissimmee, Osceola County, Florida for the purpose of gaming or gambling or did procure, suffer, or permit any person to play for money or other valuable thing at any game; or did procure, suffer, or permit any person to play for money or other valuable thing at any game; in violation of Florida Statute 849.01.

Predicate Incident 10(a)
Keeping Gambling Houses

Beginning on or about June 1, 2022, and continuing through on or about December 31, 2022, **SHELDON WETHERHOLT** and others known, and unknown, did own, operate, manage, and/or control an establishment known as Fusion Social Club, LLC d/b/a Eclipse Social Club located at 4561 W Irlo Bronson Memorial Hwy, Kissimmee, Osceola County, Florida for the purpose of gaming or gambling or did procure, suffer, or permit any person to play for money or other valuable thing at any game; in violation of Florida Statute 849.01; **OR**

Predicate Incident 10(b)
Agents or Employees of Keeper of Gambling House

Beginning on or about June 1, 2022, and continuing through on or about December 31, 2022, **SHELDON WETHERHOLT**, and others known, and unknown, did act as a servant, clerk, agent, or employee of an establishment known as Fusion Social Club, LLC d/b/a Eclipse Social Club located at 4561 W Irlo Bronson Memorial Hwy, Kissimmee, Osceola County, Florida for the purpose of gaming or gambling or did procure, suffer, or permit any person to play for money or other valuable thing at any game; in violation of Florida Statute 849.01.

Predicate Incident 11
Agents or Employees of Keeper of Gambling House

Beginning on or about June 1, 2022, and continuing through on or about December 31, 2022, **SHARON FEDRICK, CAROL COTE**, and others known, and unknown, did act as a servant, clerk, agent, or employee of an establishment known as Fusion Social Club, LLC d/b/a Eclipse Social Club located at 4561 W Irlo Bronson Memorial Hwy, Kissimmee, Osceola County, Florida for the purpose of gaming or gambling or did procure, suffer, or permit any person to play for money or other valuable thing at any game; in violation of Florida Statute 849.01.

Predicate Incident 12

Lottery

Beginning on or about January 1, 2023, and continuing through on or about December 31, 2023, **YING ZHANG, MARCOS R. LOPEZ, SHELDON WETHERHOLT** and others known, and unknown, did own, operate, manage, and/or control an establishment known as Fusion Social Club, LLC d/b/a Eclipse Social Club located at 4561 W Irlo Bronson Memorial Hwy, Kissimmee, Osceola County, Florida which set up, promoted, or conducted a lottery for money or for something of value in violation of Florida Statute 849.09.

Predicate Incident 13

Unlawful Possession of Slot Machines

Beginning on or about January 1, 2023, and continuing through on or about December 31, 2023 **YING ZHANG, MARCOS R. LOPEZ, SHELDON WETHERHOLT** and others known, and unknown, did own, operate, manage, and/or control an establishment known as Fusion Social Club, LLC d/b/a Eclipse Social Club located at 4561 W Irlo Bronson Memorial Hwy, Kissimmee, Osceola County, Florida which was utilized to own, store, keep, and/or possess a slot machine as defined in Florida Statute 849.16 and in violation of Florida Statute 849.15.

Predicate Incident 14

Keeping Gambling Houses

Beginning on or about January 1, 2023, and continuing through on or about December 31, 2023, **YING ZHANG, MARCOS R. LOPEZ**, and others known, and unknown, did own, operate, manage, and/or control an establishment known as Fusion Social Club, LLC d/b/a Eclipse Social Club located at 4561 W Irlo Bronson Memorial Hwy, Kissimmee, Osceola County, Florida for the purpose of gaming or gambling or did procure, suffer, or permit any person to play for money or other valuable thing at any game; in violation of Florida Statute 849.01.

Predicate Incident 15(a)

Keeping Gambling Houses

Beginning on or about January 1, 2023, and continuing through on or about December 31, 2023, **SHELDON WETHERHOLT** and others known, and unknown, did own, operate, manage, and/or control an establishment known as Fusion Social Club, LLC d/b/a Eclipse Social Club located at 4561 W Irlo Bronson Memorial Hwy, Kissimmee, Osceola County, Florida for the purpose of gaming or gambling or did procure, suffer, or permit any person to play for money or other valuable thing at any game; in violation of Florida Statute 849.01; **OR**

Predicate Incident 15(b)

Agents or Employees of Keeper of Gambling House

Beginning on or about January 1, 2023, and continuing through on or about December 31, 2023, **SHELDON WETHERHOLT**, and others known, and unknown, did act as a servant, clerk, agent, or employee of an establishment known as Fusion Social Club, LLC d/b/a Eclipse Social Club located at 4561 W Irlo Bronson Memorial Hwy, Kissimmee, Osceola County, Florida for the purpose of gaming or gambling or did procure, suffer, or permit any person to play for money or other valuable thing at any game; in violation of Florida Statute 849.01.

Predicate Incident 16
Agents or Employees of Keeper of Gambling House

Beginning on or about January 1, 2023, and continuing through on or about December 31, 2023, **SHARON FEDRICK, CAROL COTE**, and others known, and unknown, did act as a servant, clerk, agent, or employee of an establishment known as Fusion Social Club, LLC d/b/a Eclipse Social Club located at 4561 W Irlo Bronson Memorial Hwy, Kissimmee, Osceola County, Florida for the purpose of gaming or gambling or did procure, suffer, or permit any person to play for money or other valuable thing at any game; in violation of Florida Statute 849.01.

Predicate Incident 17
Lottery

Beginning on or about January 1, 2024, and continuing through on or about August 27, 2024, **YING ZHANG aka “Kate”, MARCOS R. LOPEZ, SHELDON WETHERHOLT** and others known, and unknown, did own, operate, manage, and/or control an establishment known as Fusion Social Club, LLC d/b/a Eclipse Social Club located at 4561 W. Irlo Bronson Memorial Hwy, Kissimmee, Osceola County, Florida which set up, promoted, or conducted a lottery for money or for something of value in violation of Florida Statute 849.09.

Predicate Incident 18
Unlawful Possession of Slot Machines

Beginning on or about January 1, 2024, and continuing through on or about August 27, 2024, **YING ZHANG, MARCOS R. LOPEZ, SHELDON WETHERHOLT** and others known, and unknown, did own, operate, manage, and/or control an establishment known as Fusion Social Club, LLC d/b/a Eclipse Social Club located at 4561 W. Irlo Bronson Memorial Hwy, Kissimmee, Osceola County, Florida which was utilized to own, store, keep, and/or possess a slot machine as defined in Florida Statute 849.16 and in violation of Florida Statute 849.15.

Predicate Incident 19
Keeping Gambling Houses

Beginning on or about January 1, 2024, and continuing through on or about August 27, 2024, **YING ZHANG, MARCOS R. LOPEZ**, and others known, and unknown, did own, operate, manage, and/or control an establishment known as Fusion Social Club, LLC d/b/a Eclipse Social

Club located at 4561 W. Irlo Bronson Memorial Hwy, Kissimmee, Osceola County, Florida for the purpose of gaming or gambling or did procure, suffer, or permit any person to play for money or other valuable thing at any game; in violation of Florida Statute 849.01.

Predicate Incident 20(a)
Keeping Gambling Houses

Beginning on or about January 1, 2024, and continuing through on or about August 27, 2024, **SHELDON WETHERHOLT** and others known, and unknown, did own, operate, manage, and/or control an establishment known as Fusion Social Club, LLC d/b/a Eclipse Social Club located at 4561 W. Irlo Bronson Memorial Hwy, Kissimmee, Osceola County, Florida for the purpose of gaming or gambling or did procure, suffer, or permit any person to play for money or other valuable thing at any game; in violation of Florida Statute 849.01; **OR**

Predicate Incident 20(b)
Agents or Employees of Keeper of Gambling House

Beginning on or about January 1, 2024, and continuing through on or about August 27, 2024, **SHELDON WETHERHOLT**, and others known, and unknown, did act as a servant, clerk, agent, or employee of an establishment known as Fusion Social Club, LLC d/b/a Eclipse Social Club located at 4561 W Irlo Bronson Memorial Hwy, Kissimmee, Osceola County, Florida for the purpose of gaming or gambling or did procure, suffer, or permit any person to play for money or other valuable thing at any game; in violation of Florida Statute 849.01.

Predicate Incident 21
Agents or Employees of Keeper of Gambling House

Beginning on or about January 1, 2024, and continuing through on or about August 27, 2024, **SHARON FEDRICK, CAROL COTE**, and others known, and unknown, did act as a servant, clerk, agent, or employee of an establishment known as Fusion Social Club, LLC d/b/a Eclipse Social Club located at 4561 W. Irlo Bronson Memorial Hwy, Kissimmee, Osceola County, Florida, for the purpose of gaming or gambling or did procure, suffer, or permit any person to play for money or other valuable thing at any game; in violation of Florida Statute 849.01.

Predicate Incident 22
Unlawful Compensation or Reward for Official Behavior

On or about January 5, 2021, and continuing through on or about December 31, 2021, **MARCOS R. LOPEZ** did, while being a public servant—to wit, the Sheriff of Osceola County—knowingly and intentionally request, solicit, accept, or agree to accept, any pecuniary or other benefit not authorized by law, for the past, present, or future performance or nonperformance or violation of any act or omission which the person believes to have been, or the public servant represents as having been, within the official discretion of the public servant, , in violation of public duty, or in performance of public duty in violation of Florida Statute 838.016(1).

Predicate Incident 23
Unlawful Compensation or Reward for Official Behavior

On or about January 1, 2022, and continuing through on or about December 31, 2022, **MARCOS R. LOPEZ** did, while being a public servant—to wit, the Sheriff of Osceola County—knowingly and intentionally request, solicit, accept, or agree to accept, any pecuniary or other benefit not authorized by law, for the past, present, or future performance or nonperformance or violation of any act or omission which the person believes to have been, or the public servant represents as having been, within the official discretion of the public servant, , in violation of public duty, or in performance of public duty in violation of Florida Statute 838.016(1).

Predicate Incident 24
Unlawful Compensation or Reward for Official Behavior

On or about January 1, 2023, and continuing through on or about December 31, 2023, **MARCOS R. LOPEZ** did, while being a public servant—to wit, the Sheriff of Osceola County—knowingly and intentionally request, solicit, accept, or agree to accept, any pecuniary or other benefit not authorized by law, for the past, present, or future performance or nonperformance or violation of any act or omission which the person believes to have been, or the public servant represents as having been, within the official discretion of the public servant, , in violation of public duty, or in performance of public duty in violation of Florida Statute 838.016(1).

Predicate Incident 25
Unlawful Compensation or Reward for Official Behavior

On or about January 1, 2024, and continuing through on or about August 27, 2024, **MARCOS R. LOPEZ** did, while being a public servant—to wit, the Sheriff of Osceola County—knowingly and intentionally request, solicit, accept, or agree to accept, any pecuniary or other benefit not authorized by law, for the past, present, or future performance or nonperformance or violation of any act or omission which the person believes to have been, or the public servant represents as having been, within the official discretion of the public servant, , in violation of public duty, or in performance of public duty in violation of Florida Statute 838.016(1).

Predicate Incident 26
Disclosure or Use of Confidential Criminal Justice Information

On or about August 2023, **MARCOS R. LOPEZ** did, while serving as a public servant—to wit, the Sheriff of Osceola County—with intent to obstruct, impede, or prevent a criminal investigation or criminal prosecution, disclose active criminal investigative or intelligence information or did disclose or use information regarding either the efforts to secure or the issuance of a warrant, subpoena or other court process or court order relating to a criminal investigation or criminal prosecution when such information was not available to the general public and was gained by reason of his official position, contrary to Chapter 838.21, Florida Statutes, and against the peace and dignity of the State of Florida.

COUNT 2
CONSPIRACY TO COMMIT RACKETEERING

STATEWIDE PROSECUTOR, for the State of Florida, by and through the undersigned Assistant Statewide Prosecutors, under oath CHARGES that beginning on or about August 25, 2019, and continuing through on or about August 27, 2024 in the Fifth and Ninth Judicial Circuits, to wit: Lake, Orange, and Osceola Counties, Florida, **YING ZHANG aka “Kate”, MARCOS R. LOPEZ, SHARON FEDRICK, SHELDON WETHERHOLT, AND CAROL COTE**, did unlawfully conspire, combine, confederate or agree with another person and persons, to wit: EACH OTHER and with others known and unknown, in violation of Florida Statute 895.03(4), to violate the laws of the State of Florida which prohibit any persons employed by or associated with an enterprise through a continuous pattern of racketeering activity, either by intending to engage in at least two (2) of the preceding and following incidents of racketeering activity as defined by Section 895.02(7), Florida Statutes, which had similar intents, results, accomplices, victims or methods of commission or which were otherwise interrelated by distinguishing characteristics and were not isolated incidents; or by intending to otherwise participate in the affairs of said enterprise with the knowledge and intent that other members of the enterprise would engage in two (2) such incidents of racketeering activity.

**AND THE ABOVE OFFENSES OCCURRED IN TWO OR MORE JUDICIAL
CIRCUITS AS PART OF A RELATED TRANSACTION OR SAID OFFENSES WERE
COMMITTED IN CONNECTION WITH AN ORGANIZED CRIMINAL CONSPIRACY
AFFECTING TWO OR MORE JUDICIAL CIRCUITS OF THE STATE OF FLORIDA**

STATEWIDE PROSECUTOR
STATE OF FLORIDA



COLLEEN A. MONROE

Senior Assistant Statewide Prosecutor
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AND



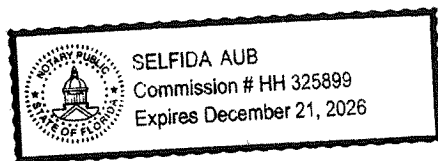
PANAGIOTA L. PAPAKOS

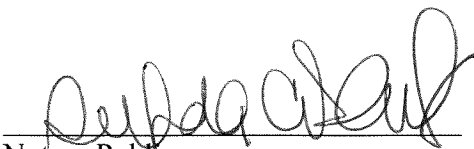
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STATE OF FLORIDA
COUNTY OF HILLSBOROUGH

Personally appeared before me, Colleen A. Monroe, Senior Assistant Statewide Prosecutor for the State of Florida, who, being first duly sworn, says that she has received testimony under oath from the material witnesses which, if true, would constitute the offenses herein charged, and that this prosecution is instituted in good faith.

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 5th day of June, 2025, by Colleen A. Monroe, who is personally known to me.



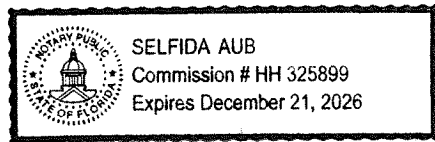


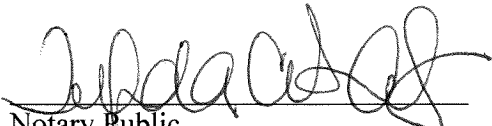
Notary Public
State of Florida at Large

STATE OF FLORIDA
COUNTY OF HILLSBOROUGH

Personally appeared before me, Panagiota L. Papakos, Senior Assistant Statewide Prosecutor for the State of Florida, who, being first duly sworn, says that she has received testimony under oath from the material witnesses which, if true, would constitute the offenses herein charged, and that this prosecution is instituted in good faith.

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 5th day of June, 2025, by Panagiota L. Papakos, who is personally known to me.




Notary Public
State of Florida at Large