

Fraud and Extortion Trial for 'Bling Bishop' Lamon Whitehead Begins

The trial for the 'bling bishop,' Lamon Miller-Whitehead has begun.

In 2022, Miller-Whitehead was arrested for allegedly scamming one his parishioners. Miller-Whitehead had reportedly lied to his congregants about "having the key to the city" from New York City's Mayor, Eric Adams.

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Miller-Whitehead, 47, was previously charged with two counts of wire fraud, one for extortion and one for lying to the FBI. Miller-Whitehead is accused of targeting an elderly parishioner for giving him \$90,000 of her life savings, according to the New York Daily News.

As NBC New York reported, prosecutor Jessica Greenwood's opening statement claims that Miller-Whitehead "lied about how much money he had and his influence." Greenwood also said, "He'd lie, cheat and steal to keep up with that appearance of wealth."

One of the ploys of stealing from the elderly parishioner, according to Greenwood, was that he "promised to use the money to buy a fixer-upper home that he would renovate for her to live in."

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Miller-Whitehead has also been accused of creating a fake bank

statement to gain a \$250,000 loan. The account, which was believed to have millions of dollars in it, held a balance of less than \$6.

These are not the only accusations against Miller-Whitehead, as he was also accused of trying to obtain \$500,000 from a businessman. The claim was that Miller-White could use his influential connections, including with Adams, to help give him a stake in real estate.

Miller-Whitehead previously pleaded not guilty and was freed after posting \$500,000 bail following his 2022 arrest. Before that initial arrest, Miller-Whitehead was robbed at gunpoint where \$1 million worth of jewelry was stolen, and the incident was caught on a livestream. {eoa}

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