



Department of Justice

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LOCAL RESIDENTS INDICTED IN FEMA FRAUD CASE

United States Attorney Richard B. Roper announced that three local individuals have been indicted by a federal grand jury in Dallas for claiming to be hurricane victims in order to fraudulently receive Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) funds. The five-count indictment returned yesterday charges Dallas residents Quave Terrell Porter, age 29, Alice Rosetta Porter, age 27, and Krishawn Janilyn Johnson, age 28, each with one count of conspiracy to defraud the United States by aiding in the filing of false claims and one count of filing a false claim. It is anticipated that each will surrender to federal authorities within the week.

“We will vigorously prosecute those who try to cheat FEMA to fraudulently obtain hurricane relief benefits,” said U.S. Attorney Roper.

The indictment alleges that Johnson suggested to the other two defendants that they submit false claims to FEMA to receive financial assistance. Johnson also caused false claims to be submitted in the names of two other individuals not charged in the indictment. On all six false claims personally submitted by Johnson or submitted by others at her direction, each claim listed Johnson’s mailing address and email address on the claim form. All of the conspirators used Johnson’s mailing address so that all the FEMA funds would be sent to Johnson’s primary residence so that she could hold and control all the FEMA funds. As a result of these false claims, the defendants are responsible for submitting false and fraudulent claims in order to collect \$10,936 in FEMA funds.

Defendants Quave Terrell Porter, Alice Rosetta Porter and Johnson also used their FEMA registration number when they each fraudulently submitted a rental application to an apartment complex in Dallas, falsely claiming they left their residence in New Orleans as a result of Hurricane Katrina. Each of these three defendants submitted a fraudulent application to obtain a FEMA-subsidized rent-free apartment for one year.

In September 2005, Attorney General Alberto R. Gonzales created the Hurricane Katrina Fraud Task Force, designed to deter, investigate and prosecute disaster-related federal crimes such as charity fraud, identity theft, procurement fraud and insurance fraud. The Hurricane Katrina Fraud Task Force — chaired by Assistant Attorney General Alice S. Fisher of the Criminal Division — includes members from the FBI, the Federal Trade Commission, the U.S. Postal Inspector’s Office and the Executive Office for the United States Attorneys, among others.

If anyone has any information concerning possible fraud being committed during the post-hurricane recovery effort, please call either the Department of Homeland Security, Office of

Inspector General Fraud Hotline at 1-866-720-5721 or the FBI Fraud Hotline at 1-800-225-5324.

An indictment is an accusation by a federal grand jury and a defendant is entitled to the presumption of innocence unless proven guilty. The conspiracy count carries a maximum statutory penalty of ten years imprisonment and a \$250,000 fine. The false claim counts each carry a maximum statutory penalty of five years imprisonment and a \$250,000 fine.

United States Attorney Roper commended the investigative efforts of the Department of Homeland Security, Office of Inspector General and the Criminal Intelligence Division of the Texas Department of Public Safety. The case is being prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney David Jarvis.

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