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For Immediate Release

AREA MAN IS CHARGED IN A FEDERAL COMPLAINT WITH FILING A FALSE CLAIM FOR FEMA HURRICANE VICTIMS FUNDS

St. Louis, Missouri: A St. Louis area man has been charged in a federal criminal complaint with stealing money from the United States government based on a false claim made to the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) for \$2,000 in relief funds available to victims of Hurricane Katrina, United States Attorney Catherine L. Hanaway announced today.

“While the amount of money involved in this case is not large, such actions cannot be tolerated. This office will make every effort to prosecute those who fraudulently seek funds that are needed for the many real victims of Hurricane Katrina,” said Hanaway.

DEXTER A. JACKSON, 43, of the 4600 block of Wilcox Avenue, St. Louis, was charged in a federal criminal complaint with one felony violation of Title 18, U.S.C. Section 641; stealing money from the United States government.

If convicted, this charge carries a maximum penalty of ten years in prison and/or a fine of \$250,000.

According to the affidavit filed with the complaint, on September 15, 2005, St. Louis police officers encountered Jackson, who told them that he was a hurricane Katrina survivor, and requested assistance finding temporary housing. When officers contacted the Red Cross, they were told that Jackson had visited the Red Cross on four different occasions, using different names each time. He told them he was seeking assistance claiming that he was a hurricane survivor, but his wife and two children had been killed in the hurricane. On September 21, 2005, a man who had provided temporary housing to Jackson notified St. Louis police that he received a disaster assistance check from FEMA, addressed and payable to Jackson for \$2,000.

The charges set forth in a complaint are merely accusations, and each defendant is presumed innocent until and unless proven guilty.