



Department of Justice

United States Attorney Dunn Lampton Southern District of Mississippi

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MOSS POINT MAN SENTENCED TO PRISON FOR KATRINA FRAUD

GULFPORT, Miss. – A Moss Point man was sentenced Wednesday, June 25, 2008, in U.S. District Court in Gulfport before Federal District Judge Sul Ozerden, U.S. Attorney Dunn Lampton of the Southern District of Mississippi announced today.

LEE TAYLOR, was sentenced to 30 months in federal prison after conviction by a jury for charges of making a false statement to the Federal Emergency Management Agency, stealing government funds from FEMA, and three counts of wire fraud. Taylor was ordered to serve 3 years of post release supervision after completing his sentence. Taylor was also ordered to make restitution of \$30, 241.71, to FEMA and \$66,764.21, to Rebuild Jackson County.

The case was investigated by John McDavid of the Federal Bureau of Investigation and prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorneys Scott Gilbert and Jay Golden.

In September, 2005, the Department of Justice created the national 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 Acting Assistant Attorney General for the Criminal Division, Matthew Friedrich, includes members from the Department of Homeland Security, Office of the Inspector General, the FBI, the Federal Trade Commission, the Department of Labor Office of Inspector General, the Postal Inspector's Office and the Executive Office of United States Attorneys, among others.

Pursuant to the Justice Department initiative, a local Katrina Fraud Task Force, consisting of over 20 Federal and State law enforcement agencies, was formed in the Southern District of Mississippi to pursue and prosecute individuals who engage in fraud associated with the hurricanes.

If anyone has information concerning possible fraud being committed during the post-Katrina recovery effort, please call either the DHS-OIG Fraud Hotline at 1-866-720-5721 or the FBI Fraud Hotline at 1-800-225-5324.

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