



# Department of Justice

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Southern District of Texas

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## **HOUSTONIAN SENTENCED TO PRISON FOR DEFRAUDING FEMA**

(HOUSTON, TX) - Gregory Parks, also known as Paige Mahogany, 33, of Houston, Texas, has been sentenced to more than three year in federal prison and ordered to thousands of dollars in restitution for filing fraudulent applications to FEMA for Hurricane Katrina and Rita disaster assistance, United States Attorney Don DeGabrielle announced today.

Gregory Parks, pleaded guilty late last year to mail fraud and aggravated identity theft, was sentenced this morning by United States District Judge Lee H. Rosenthal to 39 months in prison without parole and further ordered he pay a total of \$34,938 in disaster assistance he fraudulently obtained from FEMA. Parks pleaded guilty to having committed mail fraud and aggravated identity theft arising from the filing of fraudulent claim for disaster assistance late last year.

Parks was originally charged with filing at least fifteen separate applications between September 12, 2005, and October 27, 2005 with FEMA for Hurricane Katrina and Hurricane Rita disaster assistance, using fifteen distinct and assigned social security numbers and fifteen different "damaged addresses" in New Orleans and Lake Charles, Louisiana, and Orange, Port Arthur and Port Neches, Texas . At a previous hearing, Parks admitted that prior to and during both storms he had resided on Doulton Dr., in Houston, TX and was not entitled to disaster assistance.

To date, forty-three (43) individuals have been charged in the Southern District of Texas with fraud relating to Hurricane Katrina or Hurricane Rita. Parks is the eighteenth individual sentenced in the Southern District of Texas for such conduct.

The United States Attorney's Office for the Southern District of Texas is a member of the Department of Justice's Hurricane Katrina Fraud Task Force, created by Attorney General Alberto R. Gonzales to deter, detect and prosecute unscrupulous individuals who try to take advantage of the Hurricane Katrina and Hurricane Rita disasters. Headed by Assistant Attorney General Alice S. Fisher, the Task Force is comprised of federal, state, and local law enforcement investigating agencies and the United States Attorney's Offices in the Gulf Coast region and nationwide.

This case was investigated by the Department of Homeland Security Office of Inspector General and by the United States Postal Inspection Service and is being prosecuted by Special Assistant United States Attorney Jason Varnado.

Anyone suspecting criminal activity involving disaster assistance programs can make an anonymous report by calling the toll-free Hurricane Relief Fraud Hotline, 1-866-720-5721, 24 hours a day, seven days a week until further notice. Information can also be emailed to the

inspector general at [dhsoighotline@dhs.gov](mailto:dhsoighotline@dhs.gov) or sent by surface mail, with as many details as possible, to: Department of Homeland Security; Washington, DC. 20528; Attn: Office of Inspector General, Hotline.

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