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# **News Release**

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## **Former credit union official sentenced on embezzlement, tax charges**

A 52-year-old Columbia Heights man was sentenced yesterday in federal court for embezzling money from the credit union where he was employed as president.

On Dec. 4 in St. Paul, United States District Court Judge Paul Magnuson sentenced Richard Allen Lange to 21 months in prison and three years supervised release on one count of embezzlement by a credit union employee and one count of filing a false income tax return. Lange was indicted on March 20, 2007, and pleaded guilty on Oct. 24, 2007.

According to his plea agreement, Lange was employed by the First Community Credit Union until Dec. 16, 2004, and on July 24, 2001, he deposited an \$11,000 money order payable from a business account of the credit union into his personal account. Lange admitted that he did not have permission to take the money. Lange also admitted that his 2001 income tax return was false because he failed to report the stolen money.

Judge Magnuson also ruled that Lange, in addition to his salary, should also be held accountable for \$249,000 in other funds taken from the credit union between 2000 and 2004.

This case was the result of an investigation by the Internal Revenue Service-Criminal Investigation Division and the Federal Bureau of Investigation, and was prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Robert M. Lewis.