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News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Tuesday, Jan. 13, 2009

Eden Prairie man sentenced to 97 months for defrauding his employer

A 34-year-old Eden Prairie man was sentenced yesterday in federal court in connection with a scheme to defraud and to obtain approximately \$8.5 million from his employer.

On Jan. 12 in St. Paul, United States District Court Judge Patrick Schiltz sentenced Nathan John Mueller to 97 months in prison and three years supervised release on one count of mail fraud. Mueller was indicted on July 7, 2008, and pleaded guilty on Aug. 15, 2008.

According to Mueller's plea agreement, beginning in approximately June 2003 through September 2007, he embezzled about \$8.5 million in funds from his employer, ING Reinsurance, by causing his employer to issue 99 checks payable to entities whose name was similar to the names of entities with whom ING Reinsurance did business.

Mueller obtained and deposited these checks into bank accounts that he controlled, and then spent the embezzled funds on gambling, cars and other entertainment expenses, among other things. To conceal the embezzlement, Mueller made numerous false and misleading entries in ING Reinsurance's books and records.

In furtherance of the scheme, Mueller used the embezzled funds to make payments on his personal credit card by mailing payments to the credit card company, specifically, Mueller made one such payment on Jan. 23, 2004.

As part of his plea agreement, Mueller has agreed to forfeit his interest in significant assets obtained using the proceeds of the fraud scheme, including properties in Eden Prairie, Brooklyn Park and a 2007 Audi.

This case was the result of an investigation by the Federal Bureau of Investigation, and was prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney John R. Marti.