



U.S. Department of Justice

United States Attorney  
Southern District of Mississippi

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
**NOVEMBER 12, 2008**

**GEORGE COUNTY BUSINESSMAN CHARGED WITH BRIBERY AND CURRENCY  
REPORTING VIOLATIONS**

Gulfport, Miss. - Dunn Lampton, United States Attorney for the Southern District of Mississippi, Michael J. DePalma, Special Agent in Charge of the Internal Revenue Service, Criminal Investigation, Frederick Brink, Special Agent in Charge, Federal Bureau of Investigation, Jackson Division, and Mississippi State Auditor Stacey Pickering announced that THOMAS ALLEN LANDON, 50, the president and owner of Mid South Pipe, Inc., of Lucedale, Mississippi, was charged in a six count federal indictment with one count of federal program bribery in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 666, alleging that he did corruptly give, offer, and agree to give a thing of value to a person, intending to influence and reward an agent of the local government of Greene County, Mississippi, and five counts of causing and attempting to cause a domestic financial institution, that is the First National Bank of Lucedale and Community Bank, Lucedale, Mississippi, to

file a currency transaction report containing material omissions and misstatements of fact, for the purpose of evading federal currency reporting requirements, in of violation of Title 31, United States Code, Section 5324. The indictment also contains a notice of forfeiture which states upon conviction the United States will seek forfeiture of \$159,093.24 in United States currency as a result of the offenses charged.

LANDON appeared today before United States Magistrate Judge Robert H. Walker in federal district court in Gulfport, Mississippi. He was released on \$25,000.00 unsecured bond. Trial is set for February 17, 2009 before United States District Judge Keith Starrett in Hattiesburg, MS.

The charges against LANDON carry a maximum possible sentence of forty years imprisonment, a maximum fine of \$1.75 million, and a period of supervised release of up to three years.

"Our office continues to work closely with the FBI, IRS, Department of Homeland Security and United States Attorney's Office in investigating cases where fraud involving Mississippi tax dollars may have been committed - such crimes will not be tolerated, and our office remains committed to identifying and investigating those violations," said State Auditor Stacey Pickering.

Michael J. De Palma, Special Agent in Charge of Internal Revenue Service Criminal Investigation stated, "It is the goal of IRS Criminal Investigation to work with the Department of Justice to ensure that those engaged in illegal financial crimes are brought to justice. IRS CI Special Agents are highly skilled in "following the money" to reveal transactions that are designed to disguise cash and its illegal source. We will continue to work with other Federal, state and local agencies to identify and recommend for prosecution those who engage in these types of illegal activities and to also "hit the bad guys where it hurts - in their wallets". By seizing their illegal proceeds, we deprive them of the fruits of their criminal activity."

Mr. Lampton praised the efforts of all the federal law enforcement agencies involved as well as the State Auditor's Office for their diligent work in the investigation of this case.

Mr. Lampton stressed that the charges represent an accusation only and all defendants are entitled to a presumption of innocence.

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