



# PRESS NOTICE

## W. WALTER WILKINS UNITED STATES ATTORNEY DISTRICT OF SOUTH CAROLINA

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**August 27, 2009**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **WIFE OF FORMER LATTA MAYOR ADDED TO FEDERAL INDICTMENT**

Columbia, South Carolina ---- United States Attorney W. Walter Wilkins stated that Alan L. Berry, age 58, and Sheila J. Berry, age 46, both of Latta, South Carolina, were charged in a Superseding Indictment with theft of government funds, a violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 641 and 2.

The new Indictment alleges that Sheila Berry aided and abetted her husband Alan Berry, who was indicted earlier this year, in fraudulently collecting disability benefits while he served as the Mayor of Latta. Authorities contend that Alan Berry had his payroll checks issued in his wife's name, so that he could continue to receive approximately \$129,000.00 in disability benefits from the Social Security Administration.

The maximum penalty the couple faces is a fine of \$250,000.00 and imprisonment for ten years.

Mr. Wilkins stated that the case was investigated by agents of the Social Security

Administration and that he has assigned the case to Assistant United States Attorney William E. Day, II of the Florence office for prosecution.

The United States Attorney stated that all charges in this Indictment are merely accusations and that all defendants are presumed innocent until and unless proven guilty.

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