



PRESS NOTICE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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DSS CHECK CASHER SENTENCED TO JAIL More Indictments Expected

Columbia, South Carolina ---- United States Attorney W. Walter Wilkins stated today that Gregory Evexs Harts, age 47, of Gilbert, South Carolina was sentenced today to 21 months of imprisonment after pleading guilty to theft of federal program funds for his role in an alleged scheme to embezzle more than \$5.2 million dollars from DSS. Harts admitted to cashing three DSS checks and to assisting others in cashing checks that were procured by fraud.

Paul Timothy Moore was indicted in February for allegedly using his position as the DSS Finance Director to authorize the issuance of hundreds of DSS checks between May 2004 and October 2008, in the approximate average amount of \$7,000.00 each. The checks were made payable to names allegedly provided by a co-conspirator who also recruited the named individuals to cash the checks and

split the proceeds.

Moore was recently released from federal custody and is awaiting trial.

The maximum possible penalty for theft of federal program funds is ten years and a fine of \$250,000.00.

Mr. Wilkins stated, "Stealing money from DSS that could have been used to help the needy and underprivileged is reprehensible. These guilty pleas affirm our office's commitment to prosecute those who illegally line their pockets with public dollars. We are committed to vigorously prosecuting each and every individual involved in any respect in this scheme."

Mr. Wilkins stated that the case is being investigated by agents of the United States Secret Service and SLED, and that he has assigned the case to Assistant United States Attorney Debbie Barbier of the Columbia office for prosecution.

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