



## PRESS NOTICE

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

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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#### **FORMER DSS FINANCE DIRECTOR PLEADS GUILTY TO EMBEZZLING \$5.2 MILLION DOLLARS IN AGENCY FUNDS MORE ARRESTS EXPECTED**

Columbia, South Carolina ---- United States Attorney W. Walter Wilkins stated today that former Department of Social Services Finance Director Paul Timothy Moore, age 60, of Columbia, pled guilty to one count of conspiracy to commit honest services mail and wire fraud and theft of government property and one count of Theft from an Organization Receiving Federal Funds, for his scheme to embezzle \$5.2 million dollars from DSS.

The facts presented at the plea hearing were that from approximately May 2004 until October 2008, Moore used his position as the agency's Finance Director to authorize the issuance of approximately 750 DSS checks in the approximate amount of \$7,000.00 each. Initially, Moore found people willing to cash these checks and to then return a portion of the money to him. He also began giving checks to people that he had relationships with. Some of these people worked at Platinum Plus and other adult night clubs that he frequented. Eventually, the checks

were made payable to names provided by a co-conspirator, Jonathon Moses, age 42, of Columbia, who recruited the named individuals to cash the checks and split the proceeds. On September 9, 2009, Jonathan Moses was sentenced to 96 months of imprisonment.

To date, 52 (fifty-two) people have been charged in this scheme. Wilkins said he expects additional arrests because it appears that more than 250 people may have been involved. "I would encourage anyone with information to contact the Secret Service here in Columbia. I would also strongly encourage anyone who is involved to come forward; it would certainly be in their best interest." The phone number for the Columbia office of the Secret Service is (803) 772-4015.

The maximum possible penalty for theft of federal program funds and conspiracy is ten years and a fine of \$250,000.00; honest services mail fraud and wire fraud each carry a maximum possible sentence of 20 years and a \$250,000.00 fine.

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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