



PRESS NOTICE

W. WALTER WILKINS
UNITED STATES ATTORNEY
DISTRICT OF SOUTH CAROLINA

*1441 Main Street, Suite 500 * Columbia, SC 29201 * (803) 929-3000**

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**CONTACT PERSON: KEVIN F. MCDONALD
(803) 929-3000**

GREENVILLE COUNTY COUNCILMAN INDICTED

Columbia, South Carolina ---- United States Attorney W. WALTER WILKINS stated today that Greenville County Councilman Harold Anthony "Tony" Trout, age 53, of Greer, South Carolina, was charged with in a five-count Indictment with the following federal crimes, each of which carries the maximum possible penalties listed:

Count 1 – unlawfully accessing a computer used in interstate communication and obtaining information in furtherance of another criminal act, in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 1030(a)(2)(C). Maximum Penalty: Imprisonment for up to 5 years, a fine of up to \$250,000, Supervised Release for up to 3 years, and a Special Assessment of \$100.

Count 2 – unlawfully accessing a computer used in interstate communication

and obtaining information, in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 1030(a)(2)(C). Maximum Penalty: Imprisonment for up to 1 year, a fine of up to \$1000,000, Supervised Release for up to 1 years, and a Special Assessment of \$25.

Count 3 – destroying records with intent to obstruct a federal investigation, in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 1519. Maximum Penalty: Imprisonment for up to 20 years, a fine of up to \$250,000, Supervised Release for up to 3 years, and a Special Assessment of \$100.

Count 4 – intentionally intercepting electronic communications, in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 2511(1)(a). Maximum Penalty: Imprisonment for up to 5 years, a fine of up to \$250,000, Supervised Release for up to 3 years, and a Special Assessment of \$100.

Count 5 – disclosing electronic communications knowing that they were unlawfully intercepted, in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 2511(1)(c). Maximum Penalty: Imprisonment for up to 5 years, a fine of up to \$250,000, Supervised Release for up to 3 years, and a Special Assessment of \$100.

Trout was arrested on a federal complaint on October 1, 2008. That complaint alleges that Trout used an electronic computer monitoring device to intercept communications from a computer owned by the County of Greenville that was being used by County Administrator Joe Kernell. The complaint further alleges that Trout used this information to unlawfully access private email accounts maintained by Mr. Kernell. The Indictment alleges that Trout then took these private emails and posted them on his personal, publicly available website. The Indictment also alleges that

following the execution of a federal search warrant at his residence, Trout destroyed records relating to the Remote Spy monitoring device.

Mr. Wilkins stated that the case is being investigated by agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation and that he has assigned the case to Assistant United States Attorney Dean A. Eichelberger of the Columbia office for prosecution. Mr. Eichelberger is being assisted by Josh Goldfoot, an attorney with the Computer Crime and Intellectual Property Section at the United States Department of Justice in Washington, DC.

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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