



Department of Justice

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FORMER EMPLOYEE AND EX-BOYFRIEND INDICTED FOR DEFRAUDING DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

ATLANTA, GA – BRIDGETTE L. DAVIDSON, 37, formerly of Atlanta, Georgia, currently residing in Washington, D.C., and DARRICK O. FRAZIER, 32, of Atlanta, Georgia, were indicted late this afternoon by a federal grand jury on multiple charges related to defrauding the Department of Veterans Affairs and conflict of interest.

“Public employees cannot use their positions of public trust for private gain,” said United States Attorney David E. Nahmias. “To do so is a blatant abuse of position and government monies meant for our veterans’ care.”

According to Nahmias and the six-count indictment: DAVIDSON is a former Department of Veterans Affairs (“VA”) Social Work Associate and FRAZIER is her former boyfriend. DAVIDSON and FRAZIER are charged with devising and engaging in a scheme to deprive the United States government of DAVIDSON’s honest services as a VA employee. From September 2000 through September 2002, DAVIDSON was a full-time Social Work Associate at the DVA Medical Center in Atlanta. As part of the Mental Health Intensive Case Management Program, her responsibilities included securing suitable out-patient housing and daily care for mentally ill and disabled military veterans.

The indictment charges that DAVIDSON and FRAZIER rented a single-family home at 3730 Winterwood Court in Marietta, Georgia, and operated it as an assisted living facility after moving four veterans who were in DAVIDSON’s supervision at the VA into the home at a profit. The veteran’s rent money came from their federally-funded VA and/or Social Security benefits. The indictment alleges that Ms. DAVIDSON represented to VA officials as well as the attorneys appointed to serve as the fiduciaries for the military veterans that the facility was independently owned and operated, and that it was a certified personal care home suitable to house and care for the veterans.

The facility was shut down in April 2002. When VA officials began an administrative investigation into DAVIDSON’s connection to the facility, she allegedly falsely denied under oath that she had any financial or proprietary interest in the home, despite the facts that she had rented the property; secured the business license for the

facility as the “owner” and “sole proprietor,” and shared the profits with her former boyfriend and co-defendant, DARRICK FRAZIER.

Counts One through Four charge both defendants with honest services mail fraud for each of the four military veterans. Counts Five and Six charge DAVIDSON with violating the criminal conflict of interest statute and making a false statement to federal officials investigating this matter.

If convicted, DAVIDSON and FRAZIER face a maximum sentence of five years in prison and a \$250,000 fine on each of the first four counts. DAVIDSON also faces a maximum sentence of five years in prison and a \$250,000 fine on both the criminal conflict of interest and false statement charges.

Members of the public are reminded that the indictment contains only allegations. A defendant is presumed innocent of the charges and it will be the government's burden to prove a defendant's guilt beyond a reasonable doubt at trial.

This case is being investigated by the Department of Veterans Affairs Office of Inspector General.

This case is being jointly prosecuted by Armando O. Bonilla of the U.S. Department of Justice, Criminal Division, Public Integrity Section, headed by Acting Chief Edward C. Nucci; and Assistant United States Attorney Teresa D. Hoyt of the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Northern District of Georgia.

For further information please contact David E. Nahmias (pronounced NAH-me-us), United States Attorney, or Charysse L. Alexander, Executive Assistant United States Attorney, through Patrick Crosby, Public Affairs Officer, U.S. Attorney's Office, at (404) 581-6016. The Internet address for the HomePage for the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Northern District of Georgia is www.usdoj.gov/usao/gan.