



Department of Justice

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FORMER CAPTAIN WITH BARTOW COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE **SENTENCED FOR EMBEZZLING COUNTY FUNDS**

ROME, GA - BRENTON JAMES GARMON, 36, of Cartersville, Georgia, was sentenced today in federal district court by Judge Robert L. Vining, Jr. for embezzling and converting \$80,493.78 in public funds to his own use while GARMON worked as a Captain for the Bartow County Sheriff's Office.

United States Attorney David E. Nahmias said, "This criminal conduct was magnified because it was committed by a law enforcement officer whom the public trusted to fight crime, not personally profit from his position. All government officials must be held accountable if they violate the public trust. Monies targeted for victims of crime and to fight crime should not be used for the benefit of a corrupt official. Fortunately, the overwhelming majority of law enforcement officers are honest, dedicated, and courageous."

According to United States Attorney Nahmias and the information presented in court: BRENTON GARMON was a Captain with the Bartow County Sheriff's Office from at least January 2004 through January 2007. In his role as Captain, GARMON oversaw monies seized by the drug unit and canine unit. GARMON was responsible for keeping account of the seized funds, keeping a bank account for forfeited funds, and keeping a record of the condemnation and expenditure/distribution of the funds. Instead of depositing all of the funds into the appropriate accounts, GARMON took and used some of the funds for his own personal use and to pay bills. Among other things, GARMON used seized funds to stop foreclosure proceedings on his personal residence.

GARMON was sentenced to one year, one month in prison to be followed by three years of supervised release, and ordered to pay full restitution of \$80,493.78. GARMON was convicted of the charges on February 27, 2008 when he entered a guilty plea to one count of embezzling and otherwise knowingly converting to his use, property under the care, custody, or control of the Bartow County Sheriff's Office.

This case was investigated jointly by Special Agents with the Federal Bureau of Investigation and by the Georgia Bureau of Investigation, which conducted an extensive audit to account for the missing monies in the case. The Bartow County Sheriff's Office

provided cooperation and assistance in the investigation and in the audit.

Assistant United States Attorney Susan Coppedge prosecuted the case.

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.