



Department of Justice

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**DEKALB COUNTY PRETRIAL SERVICES OFFICIAL
AND PROBATION OFFICER CHARGED IN
CRIMINAL CHARGE-FIXING EXTORTION SCHEME**

Atlanta, GA - KEITH L. HUGHES, 39, of Covington, Georgia, the Coordinator of the DeKalb County Office of Pretrial Services, and NATALIE NICOLE DUNN, 32, of Ellenwood, Georgia, a DeKalb County State Court Probation Officer, were arrested today by Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) agents and charged with conspiracy and extortion in a federal criminal complaint related to a criminal charge-fixing scheme. The two defendants made their initial appearance before a United States Magistrate Judge this evening, and were each granted an unsecured bond of \$15,000. A preliminary hearing for both is scheduled before Judge Vineyard on March 24, 2009, at 2 p.m.

United States Attorney David E. Nahmias said, "In exchange for \$25,000 in cash payoffs, this DeKalb County Pretrial Services Coordinator and DeKalb County Probation Officer allegedly offered to use their positions to help a charged drug dealer get a lighter sentence. That is not justice; it is extortion and corruption. Fortunately, this alleged corruption did not extend beyond these two defendants or into the ranks of prosecutors and judges who ultimately control the disposition of criminal cases. Corruption of the justice system at any level is intolerable, and anyone who becomes involved in such corruption should expect to be aggressively investigated and prosecuted."

FBI Atlanta Special Agent in Charge Greg Jones said, "Equal treatment in our courts is one of the most basic and cherished civil rights. Anyone who stands accused of a crime in this country must do so confident in the knowledge that they face a fair and impartial process, without corruption or outright greed. The FBI will continue to protect the rights of all Americans by rooting out this type of corruption wherever it exists."

The facts alleged against the two defendants are presented in the below attached Criminal Complaint affidavit, which was filed in United States District Court this afternoon.

Members of the public are reminded that the criminal complaint 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 Special Agents of the FBI.

Assistant United States Attorneys Richard S. Moultrie, Jr. and Jeff A. Brown are prosecuting 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.