

Department of Justice

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FORMER PEKIN CITY JANITOR CHARGED IN METHAMPHETAMINE MANUFACTURING CONSPIRACY

Peoria, Ill. – A former janitor employed by the city of Pekin, Ill., has been arrested and charged related to an alleged methamphetamine manufacturing conspiracy. Stacy R. Maneno, 37, of the 100 block of Edds Street, Pekin, Ill., made her initial court appearance this afternoon in federal court in Peoria before U.S. Magistrate Judge John A. Gorman. A trial date of Feb. 25, 2013, has been scheduled before U.S. District Judge James E. Shadid.

The indictment, returned Wednesday by the grand jury, charges Maneno with one count of conspiracy to manufacture more than 500 grams of methamphetamine in Tazewell county, beginning in the summer of 2011 and continuing to the summer of 2012. The indictment alleges that Maneno, working as a custodian, had access to a task force room at the Pekin Police Department. The task force room was used by law enforcement agents assigned to an ongoing methamphetamine investigation known as “Operation Copperhead.” The indictment alleges that Maneno used her access to the task force room to steal confidential information and that she shared the confidential information with members of her alleged conspiracy and others.

Maneno’s ex-husband, Chad Maneno, and three others, including Chad Maneno’s wife, Ailene M. Maneno, Terrance J. Watson, and Terry L. Coen, were indicted in October 2012 and charged with a single count of conspiracy to manufacture more than 50 grams of methamphetamine from August 2011 to October 2012 in Tazewell county. Chad and Ailene Maneno, and Coen, all of Texas, were arrested in Texas, and released on bond. Watson was arrested in Missouri. All have been released on bond and trial is scheduled on Feb. 4, 2013.

If convicted, the penalty for the offense carries a statutory mandatory minimum penalty of 10 years to life in prison. If a defendant has one prior felony drug conviction, the mandatory minimum penalty is enhanced to 20 years to life in prison. With two or more prior felony drug convictions, the statutory penalty is life in prison without parole.

The charges are the result of an investigation by the Pekin Police Department, the Tazewell County Sheriff’s Office, and Illinois State Police Zone 4 Investigations, working cooperatively with the Tazewell County State’s Attorney’s Office and the U.S. Attorney’s Office for the Central District of Illinois. The cases are being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Tate Chambers.

Members of the public are reminded that an indictment is merely an accusation; the defendants are presumed innocent unless proven guilty.

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