

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
EASTERN DISTRICT OF LOUISIANA**

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

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CRIMINAL DOCKET NO. 09-031

V.

✿

SECTION: "R"

RYANT PRICE

✻

VIOLATION: 18 U.S.C. 641

* * *

FACTUAL BASIS

The Defendant, RYANT PRICE (hereinafter, “**PRICE**”), has agreed to plead guilty as charged to Count 1 of the superceding indictment charging him with theft of government money, in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 641.

Should this matter have gone to trial, the Government would have proven, through the introduction of competent testimony and admissible, tangible exhibits, the following facts, beyond a reasonable doubt, to support the allegations in the superceding indictment now pending against the defendant:

Pursuant to legislation passed by the Congress of the United States of America, with the approval of the President of the United States, funds were appropriated to the Department of Housing and Urban Development (“HUD”) for a Community Development Block Grant

(“CDBG”) for Louisiana hurricane victims. HUD is, and was, at the time of the offense, an agency or department of the United States of America. The purpose of this CDBG was to assist and aid owners of property damaged or destroyed by Hurricanes Katrina and Rita in August and September of 2005. The grant money was disbursed under a program known as the Louisiana Road Home Program (“LRHP”). HUD prepared the rules and regulations governing the disbursement of grant money through the State of Louisiana. The State of Louisiana through the Office of Community Development, Division of Administration, contracted with ICF International, Inc. to administer LRHP.

One of the major requirements for receiving grant money from Road Home, was that the damaged property be the primary residence of the applicant on August 29, 2005.

At the time Hurricane Katrina made landfall, on August 29, 2005, **PRICE** owned a home located at 3651 Fairmont Drive, New Orleans, Louisiana, which he did not occupy.

From on or about March 14, 1997, to about December 2008, Ryant **PRICE** and his wife, Lisa Price, lived at 11754 River Road, Saint Rose, Louisiana. Ryant **PRICE** and Lisa Price owned, occupied, and used this residence as their primary residence before and after Hurricane Katrina.

On or about September 22, 2006, **PRICE** submitted his completed application for a Road Home grant. The application stated that **PRICE’S** primary residence on the date Hurricane Katrina struck Louisiana, August 29, 2005, was 3651 Fairmont Drive, New Orleans, Louisiana. A copy of the online application from the files of ICF International, Inc., (“ICF”), the administrators of the LHRP, would be introduced to prove that **PRICE** claimed Fairmont Drive as his primary residence on August 29, 2005. (This application was given tracking number 06HH034798 by ICF.)

On or about October 12, 2006, in the Eastern District of Louisiana, **PRICE** attended his initial LRHP appointment and listed his primary residence on the date Hurricane Katrina struck Louisiana, August 29, 2005, as 3651 Fairmont Drive, New Orleans, Louisiana.

An employee of the LRHP would testify that on or about October 12, 2006, he personally reviewed the online application with **PRICE** at the offices of the LRHP. This individual would state that he had a standard speech he gave to each applicant when it came to the question on the application regarding whether the listed damaged property was the primary residency of the applicant. He would tell each applicant that the primary residence requirement of the grant referred to the house they occupied the majority of the time when Hurricane Katrina struck New Orleans. It would be the home where their mail was delivered, they kept their clothes, and not a second home of any sort. Further, he stated if the **PRICE** had told him that the 3651 Fairmont Drive was not his primary residency at the time of the storm, he would have rejected the application and not sent it on for completion. Since he reviewed the application based on **PRICE**'s representations and the application was approved, he believes that the defendant did not provide him with any of these facts at the time of their face to face meeting to review the Road Home application.

On or about March 2, 2007, **PRICE** mailed a benefit selection form by U.S. Mail from St. Rose, Louisiana, to the LRHP office located in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, indicating in the form that he elected to stay in his home located at 3651 Fairmont Drive, New Orleans, Louisiana.

Individuals from the LRHP and First American Title Company would testify that on or about May 24, 2007, in the Eastern District of Louisiana, **PRICE** closed on the Road Home grant. As part of the closing process, **PRICE** was required to confirm and sign various closing

documents, including a Road Home Grant Recipient Affidavit. The Road Home Grant Recipient Affidavit signed by **PRICE** on May 24, 2007, stated that **PRICE**'s primary residence on the date Hurricane Katrina struck Louisiana, August 29, 2005, was 3651 Fairmont Drive, New Orleans, Louisiana. As a result of his actions, **PRICE** received direct financial assistance from the LRHP totaling \$105,000 that he was never entitled to. This grant was provided to **PRICE** in the form of a "Compensation Grant," which he received for the uncompensated damage or loss of the property located at 3651 Fairmont Drive, New Orleans, Louisiana.

These facts would have been proven beyond a reasonable doubt by credible testimony of agents and various witnesses, and admissible exhibits described below in further detail:

The Government would submit a Federal Emergency Management Agency online application for disaster assistance in the name of **RYANT PRICE** dated September 14, 2005. In that application the defendant stated the property he was living at at the time of Hurricane Katrina was located at 3651 Fairmont Drive, New Orleans, Louisiana.

The Government would submit a United States Small Business Administration Home Loan application in the name of **RYANT PRICE** dated November 11, 2005, in which it is stated that 3651 Fairmont Drive, New Orleans, Louisiana, was his primary residency on the date on the date Hurricane Katrina hit New Orleans, Louisiana. Additionally, the Government would introduce a letter dated May 17, 2006 that **PRICE** sent to the Small Business Administration requesting reconsideration of the denial of his disaster loan application. In the letter, **PRICE** acknowledged that 3651 Fairmont Drive was not his primary residence on August 29, 2005.

Several neighbors, coworkers, and family members of **PRICE** from the St. Rose area would testify that he and his wife, Lisa, were living at 11754 River Road in St. Rose for many years before Katrina struck the metro area, and they were never separated or divorced.

A representative of the Sewerage and Water Department would testify their records indicated that there was no sewerage or water services at 3651 Fairmont Drive, New Orleans, Louisiana during the year 2005. Likewise, a representative of Entergy New Orleans would testify that their records indicated that there was no electricity at 3651 Fairmont Drive, New Orleans, Louisiana during the year 2005.

The Government would submit copies of his driver's licenses that were issued on August 2, 1995; December 9, 1996; December 2, 1999; May 5, 2003; November 26, 2003; and December 6, 2007. These licenses show that **PRICE** listed 11754 River Road, St. Rose, Louisiana as his primary residence.

The Government would also submit a statement that **PRICE** made to the agents during an interview regarding the Road Home grant on October 1, 2008. During the interview, **PRICE** admitted to the agents that 11754 River Road in St. Rose was his primary residence in 2005.

By engaging in the behavior outlined above, **PRICE** did knowingly embezzle, steal, purloin, and convert to his own use HUD benefits to which he knew he was not entitled.

The above facts come from an investigation conducted by agents from the Department of Housing and Urban Development - Office of the Inspector General, agents from the Federal Bureau of investigation, and admissions of **PRICE**.

The United States would have also proven beyond a reasonable doubt, through the introduction of competent testimony and admissible tangible exhibits including the testimony of special agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation ("FBI"), representatives of the Federal Emergency Management Agency ("FEMA"), and others the following facts to support the allegations charged in Count 7 of the superceding indictment now pending against the **PRICE**.

First, the United States would present evidence in the form of documents and

testimony that FEMA is an agency of the United States of America.

Second, the United States would offer FEMA documents and the testimony of FEMA representative showing that on or about September 14, 2005, **PRICE** intentionally made false and fraudulent statements to FEMA and a FEMA representatives when he applied for FEMA assistance when he told them that he resided at 3651 Fairmont Drive, New Orleans, Louisiana on August 29, 2005, the date Hurricane Katrina made landfall in Southeastern Louisiana. A FEMA representative would be called to testify that these false statements were material to FEMA's decision to award **PRICE** rental and other assistance and, in fact, caused FEMA to award the defendant, **PRICE**, assistance in the amount of \$14,858 that he was never entitled to.

Admissible exhibits, testimony of agents and other various witnesses, and **PRICE's** confession to agents from the Department of Housing and Urban Development - Office of the Inspector General and the Federal Bureau of Investigations would be introduced to show that **PRICE** was residing at 11754 River Road Saint Rose, Louisiana, on August 29, 2005, the date Hurricane Katrina made landfall in Southeastern Louisiana.

APPROVED AND ACCEPTED:

RYANT PRICE	Date
Defendant	

GEORGE CHANEY, JR.	Date
Attorney for Defendant Ryant Price	

SPIRO LATSIS	Date
Assistant United States Attorney	