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**TOWN OF BALL EMPLOYEES SENTENCED  
FOR FEMA FRAUD**

**ALEXANDRIA, La.:** The former Chief of Police of Ball, Louisiana, along with four other former and current employees of the Town of Ball, were sentenced on Friday by U. S. District Judge Dee D. Drell for their roles in defrauding the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) in the aftermath of Hurricane Gustav, United States Attorney Stephanie A. Finley announced.

Jay L. Barber, 56, elected Chief of Police in July 2008, was sentenced to 3 years probation and ordered to complete 150 hours community service. He was also ordered to pay \$30,814.02 in restitution to FEMA and a \$10,000.00 fine.

Judy M. Crowe, 58, an employee of the Ball Police Department since July 2008, was sentenced to 3 years probation and ordered to complete 100 hours community service. She was also ordered to pay \$1,229.86 in restitution to FEMA and a \$5,000.00 fine.

Curtis A. Akins, 34, a police officer with the Ball Police Department since July 2007, was sentenced to 1 year probation and 100 hours community service. He was ordered to pay \$565.92 in restitution to FEMA and a \$2,000.00 fine.

Laverne J. James, 54, a clerk with the Ball Police Department since April 1993, was sentenced to 1 year probation and ordered to complete 50 hours community service. She was ordered to pay \$1,428.84 in restitution to FEMA and a \$3,000.00 fine.

Brenda F. Kimball, the Town of Ball Clerk since May 2007, was sentenced to 9 months in prison, 3 years supervised release, and ordered to complete 150 hours of community service. She was also ordered to pay \$105,566.10 in restitution to FEMA and a \$6,000.00 fine.

Mayor Roy Hebron will be sentenced on Monday, May 23, 2011 at 11:00 a.m.

The 30-month joint investigation by the FBI and Office of Homeland Security lead to a three-count indictment against five defendants charging conspiracy, major disaster fraud,

and theft of government money. Another defendant, Laverne James, was charged by bill of information with conspiracy. Roy Hebron, Jay Barber, Brenda Kimball and Laverne James all plead guilty to one count of conspiracy. Judy Crowe and Curtis Akins each plead guilty to one misdemeanor count of theft of government money.

The defendants overstated the hours worked and the vehicle and equipment usage during Hurricanes Gustav and Rita in the time sheets they submitted as part of the Town of Ball's application to be reimbursed by FEMA.

U. S. Attorney Finley stated: "Hurricanes Gustav and Rita were traumatic, devastating disasters. FEMA's goal was to work with cities, towns and victims to help them get through difficult times. That required the assistance of state and local officials, many of whom worked hard with their communities to assist them in working through the process so that they could get past their loss and move forward with their lives. These officials and employees took advantage of the system and the citizens of Ball for no other reason than greed. This case should send a strong message that this kind of activity is serious and will not be tolerated."

This investigation was conducted by the Federal Bureau of Investigation, Alexandria Resident Agency, and the Department of Homeland Security, Office of Inspector General. The case was prosecuted by Assistant U. S. Attorney Cytheria D. Jernigan and First Assistant U. S. Attorney Alexander C. Van Hook.

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