

NEWS

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Ex-Branchburg Republican Committee Treasurer Gets Probation with
Home Confinement for Theft of Committee Funds

(More)

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NEWARK – A former treasurer of the Branchburg Republican District Committee was sentenced today to three years of probation with six months of home confinement with electronic monitoring for misappropriating \$10,000 from the committee’s bank account, Acting U.S. Attorney Ralph J. Marra, Jr., announced.

U.S. District Judge William H. Walls also fined Russell Herzog, 46, of Branchburg, \$10,000. No restitution order was imposed since Herzog has paid back the funds.

Herzog served as treasurer of the Branchburg Republican District Committee (“BRDC”) from approximately June 2002 through December 2007. He pleaded guilty to mail fraud before Judge Walls in October for the scheme to defraud and obtain money from the BRDC and its contributors, thereby depriving the committee of its right to Herzog’s honest services as treasurer.

At his plea hearing, Herzog admitted that on separate occasions during 2003, he withdrew \$6,000 and \$4,000 and used the funds to pay personal debts which bore no relation to the activities of the BRDC. Herzog admitted that, in his role as treasurer, he submitted a fraudulent quarterly form to the New Jersey Election Law Enforcement Commission in Trenton, which failed to document the withdrawals by Herzog and incorrectly stated the amount of cash on hand at the end of the respective quarter.

Marra credited Special Agents of the FBI, under the direction of Special Agent in Charge Weysan Dun, in Newark, for the investigation of Herzog.

The government was represented by Assistant U.S. Attorney Mark J. McCarren, of the U.S. Attorney’s Office Special Prosecutions unit in Newark.

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Defense Counsel: Blair Zwillman, Esq., Woodbridge