

NEWS

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Former Postmaster Pleads Guilty in Connection With Theft of U.S. Postal Monies

(More)

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CAMDEN – A former Postmaster at the U.S. Post Office in Absecon pleaded guilty today a one-count Information that charges him with making false entries and reports of moneys or securities in connection with his scheme to deceive the U.S. Postal Service, U.S. Attorney Christopher J. Christie announced.

Charles Lynch, 56, who formerly resided in Galloway Township and recently moved to Ohio, pleaded guilty before U.S. District Judge Joseph H. Rodriguez to the one-count Information. Judge Rodriguez released the defendant on a \$50,000 unsecured bond pending sentencing, which is scheduled for November 19, 2007.

At his plea hearing, Lynch stated that from January to June 2005 he was the Postmaster of the U.S. Post Office in Absecon, and as such, his responsibilities included monitoring the inventories and keeping accounts and records of stamps and money in three vending machines, specifically two stamp vending machines in the Absecon Post Office lobby and one stamp vending machine at a grocery store called “The Store” in Galloway Township.

Lynch admitted that he made false and fictitious entries in the accounts and records regarding deposits of stamps into the stamp vending machine located at The Store. Lynch admitted that he did so with the intent deceive the United States Postal Service. Lynch admitted that the loss amount sustained by the Post Office was more than \$30,000 but less than \$70,000. Furthermore, Lynch admitted that as Postmaster he abused a position of public trust in a manner that significantly facilitated the commission or concealment of the offense.

The charge of making false entries and reports of moneys or securities carries a maximum penalty of 10 years in prison and a fine of \$250,000.

In determining an actual sentence, Judge Rodriguez will consult the advisory U.S. Sentencing Guidelines, which provide appropriate sentencing ranges that take into account the severity and characteristics of the offense, the defendant's criminal history, if any, and other factors. The judge, however, is not bound by those guidelines in determining a sentence.

Parole has been abolished in the federal system. Defendants who are given custodial terms must serve nearly all that time.

Christie credited Special Agents of the U.S. Postal Service - Office of Inspector General, under the direction of Special Agent in Charge Jane Hughes, with the investigation leading to the guilty plea.

The Government is represented by Assistant U.S. Attorney Matthew Skahill of the Criminal Division in Camden.

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Defense Attorney: David. S. Dessen, Esq. Willow Grove, Pa.