



# Department of Justice

United States Attorney Richard S. Hartunian  
Northern District of New York

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CONTACT: EAUSA JOHN G. DUNCAN

(315) 448-0672

## **POSTAL EMPLOYEE ADMITS TO EMBEZZLING POSTAL FUNDS**

Richard S. Hartunian, United States Attorney for the Northern District of New York, announced that **DONNA HAMMOND-HAYES**, age 53, of Vermont, pled guilty Monday to the misdemeanor offense of Misappropriation of Postal Funds, before the Hon. Andrew T. Baxter in the United States District Court in Syracuse, New York. Sentencing for **HAMMOND- HAYES** is scheduled for November 26, 2012. As a result of the conviction, **HAMMOND- HAYES** is facing a term of imprisonment of up to one year, followed by a term of supervised release of up to one year, a fine of up to \$100,000, and a special assessment of \$25.

**HAMMOND-HAYES** admitted that while working at the Kernan Station Post Office in Utica, New York, she embezzled money from the United States Post Office, in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 1711. During the plea, **HAMMOND-HAYES** admitted that she received cash from a customer for a sale of merchandise, and later, after the post office was closed, processing a refund for the return of the merchandise, and embezzling the money entrusted to her as an employee of the USPS. As part of the plea, **HAMMOND-HAYES** agreed to pay \$4,729.02 to the USPS as audits of the post office revealed numerous questionable refunds processed by **HAMMOND-HAYES** and shortages in the overall cash and stamp stock.

The investigation of **HAMMOND-HAYES** began in June 2009, when Special Agents with the United States Postal Service, Office of Inspector General, reviewed records from the Utica Post Office as a result repeated large shortages at the Kernan Station post office.

This prosecution was handled in the United States Attorney's Office by Assistant U.S. Attorney Tamara B. Thomson. Further information can be directed to the United States Attorney's Office at (315) 448-0672.