



# Department of Justice

**United States Attorney Donald J. DeGabrielle, Jr.**  
**Southern District of Texas**

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**ANOTHER HOUSTON RESIDENT INDICTED WITH DEFRAUDING  
FEMA HURRICANE DISASTER FUNDS**

HOUSTON, TX – A federal grand jury has returned a 13 count indictment charging Gregory Darnell Parks, 33, of Houston, for fraudulently obtaining thousands of dollars in Hurricane Katrina and Hurricane Rita disaster assistance, United States Attorney Don DeGabrielle announced today.

Special agents of the Department of Homeland Security Office of Inspector General brought Parks into custody on June 30, 2006. Parks was arraigned this morning before United States Magistrate Judge Mary Milloy, and released on a \$60,000 bond.

The indictment returned on June 28, 2006, charges Parks with two counts of wire fraud, eight counts of mail fraud and three counts of aggravated identity theft.

Parks is accused of filing 15 separate fraudulent applications for disaster assistance, using 15 different social security numbers and 15 unique “damaged addresses” in New Orleans, Louisiana, Lake Charles, Louisiana, Orange, Texas, Port Arthur, Texas, and Port Neches, Texas, claiming to have resided at each address during the landfall of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita. In Parks’ lone application for Hurricane Katrina relief, it is alleged he falsely claimed that the storm caused damage to his personal property as well as his automobile. In Parks’ remaining applications, he is alleged to have falsely stated that Hurricane Rita left him with an essential need for food, clothing and shelter. Based upon Parks’ fraudulent applications to FEMA, the Department of Treasury sent Parks over \$35,000 in disaster assistance funds.

If convicted, Parks faces a maximum sentence of 20 years of imprisonment, without parole, and a \$250,000 fine for each of the wire fraud and mail fraud counts. The aggravated identity theft counts each carry a mandatory consecutive sentence of two years of imprisonment.

With the return of this indictment, a total of 23 individuals has been charged in the Southern District of Texas with fraud relating to Hurricane Katrina or Hurricane Rita.

The United States Attorney's Office for the Southern District of Texas is a member of the Department of Justice's Hurricane Katrina Fraud Task Force, created by Attorney General Alberto R. Gonzales to deter, detect and prosecute unscrupulous individuals who try to take advantage of the Hurricane Katrina and Hurricane Rita disasters. Headed by Assistant Attorney General Alice S. Fisher, the Task Force is comprised of federal, state, and local law enforcement

investigating agencies and the United States Attorney's Offices in the Gulf Coast region and nationwide.

This case was jointly investigated by the Department of Homeland Security Office of Inspector General and the United States Postal Inspection Service, with assistance from the Social Security Administration Office of Inspector General and the Small Business Administration Office of Inspector General. The case is being prosecuted by Special Assistant United States Attorney Jason Varnado.

Anyone suspecting criminal activity involving disaster assistance programs can make an anonymous report by calling the toll-free Hurricane Relief Fraud Hotline, 1-866-720-5721, 24 hours a day, seven days a week until further notice. Information can also be emailed to the inspector general at [dhsoighotline@dhs.gov](mailto:dhsoighotline@dhs.gov) or sent by surface mail, with as many details as possible, to:

Department of Homeland Security  
Washington, DC. 20528  
Attn: Office of Inspector General, Hotline

**An indictment or superseding indictment is a formal accusation of criminal conduct, not evidence. A defendant is presumed innocent unless and until convicted through due process of law.**

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