



Department of Justice

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Middle District of Louisiana

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TWO MORE SENTENCED IN BATON ROUGE, LOUISIANA, ON DISASTER RELIEF FRAUD CHARGES

BATON ROUGE, LA – Two more Louisiana residents were sentenced in federal court on fraud charges related to a hurricane disaster relief program, United States Attorney David R. Dugas announced today.

KIM W. MAJOR, age 48, of Baton Rouge, Louisiana, pled guilty on October 11, 2007, to Count One of an indictment charging her with mail fraud. The indictment charged that from on or about September 23, 2005, through on or about April 4, 2006, MAJOR, under materially false and fraudulent pretenses and representations, received more than \$25,000 in expedited disaster assistance. MAJOR was sentenced today by U.S. District Court Judge John V. Parker to four years of probation, including four months of home detention, and restitution in the amount of \$25,069.00 payable to the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). The United States moved to dismiss the remaining counts of the indictment pursuant to the plea agreement. The U.S. Department of Homeland Security's Office of Inspector General and the U.S. Secret Service conducted the investigation of this matter, with assistance from the U.S. Department of Agriculture's office of Inspector General.

TAMMY T. DABNEY, age 36, of Baton Rouge, Louisiana, pled guilty on July 20, 2007, to Count One of an indictment charging her with making a false and fraudulent claim for disaster assistance benefits. DABNEY was sentenced today by U.S. District Court Judge John V. Parker to three years of probation, twenty-five hours of community service, and restitution in the amount of \$2,000 payable to FEMA. The United States moved to dismiss the remaining count of the indictment pursuant to the plea agreement. The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's Office of Inspector General and the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's Office of Inspector General conducted the investigation of this matter.

The number of individuals who have been charged in the Middle District of Louisiana with violations related to hurricane disaster relief funds stands at one hundred forty-three.

In September 2005, Attorney General Alberto R. Gonzales created the Hurricane Katrina Fraud Task Force, designed to deter, investigate and prosecute disaster-related federal crimes such as charity fraud, identity theft, procurement fraud and insurance fraud. The Hurricane Katrina Fraud Task Force – chaired by Assistant Attorney General Alice S. Fisher of the Criminal Division – includes the FBI, the U.S. Inspectors General community, the U.S. Secret Service, the U.S. Postal Inspection Service, the Executive Office for United States Attorneys and others.

For further information, contact David R. Dugas, U.S. Attorney for the Middle District of Louisiana, or Lyman Thornton, First Assistant U.S. Attorney, at (225) 389-0443. 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 Hurricane Katrina Fraud Task Force at HKFTF@leo.gov or sent by surface mail, with as many details as possible, to Hurricane Katrina Fraud Task Force, Baton Rouge, LA 70821-4909.

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