

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
EASTERN DISTRICT OF LOUISIANA**

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

*

CRIMINAL NO. 15-109

v.

*

SECTION: "H"

WANDA JAMES

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* * *

FACTUAL BASIS

The above-named defendant, **WANDA JAMES**, has agreed to plead guilty to Count One of the Bill of Information now pending against her. Should this matter have gone to trial, the United States of America would have proven beyond a reasonable doubt, through the introduction of relevant, competent, and admissible testimonial, physical and demonstrative evidence, the following facts to support the allegations against the defendant, **WANDA JAMES**:

Unless stated otherwise, all of the facts set forth herein occurred within the Eastern District of Louisiana.

COUNT 1: FALSE ENTRIES AND REPORTS OF MONEYS, 18 U.S.C. § 2073

From on or about September 10, 2013 through and including on or about February 3, 2014, within the Eastern District of Louisiana, the defendant, **WANDA JAMES ("JAMES")**, being a Postal Service officer or employee, charged with the duty of receiving, holding, or paying over moneys to, for, or on behalf of the United States, did intentionally and unlawfully make false reports of such moneys.

Specifically, from September 10, 2013 through February 3, 2014, the defendant, **JAMES**, was employed by the Postal Service as an Acting Postmaster Relieve responsible for conducting retail transactions at the Fluker Post Office in Fluker, Louisiana, in the Eastern

District of Louisiana. The retail transactions included stamp and money order sales, Post Office Box rental agreements, passport application assistance, and general postal merchandise sales. **JAMES** was also responsible for accurately completing the Daily Financial Reports (PS 1412 Forms) of her retail transactions and making daily deposits.

In or around the beginning of February 2014, the Postal Service, Office of Inspector General ("USPS-OIG") received information from the Roseland Postmaster that more than \$2,500 in funds had been reported as debit card sales, but had no corresponding debit card account information to support the sales. An investigation conducted by the USPS-OIG revealed that **JAMES**, while working as the Postmaster Relief, intentionally and wrongfully reported money order purchases as debit card transactions when they were, in fact, cash purchases.

Postal Records, including Daily Financial Reports (PS 1412 Forms) and money order sales information corresponding to the daily reports revealed that on 16 different days **JAMES** falsely recorded money order cash sales as debit card purchases and stole the cash from the money order sales.

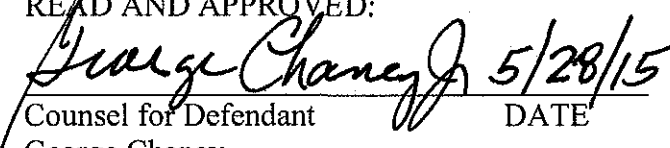
The defendant committed these acts in order to convert money to her own use, which came into her hands or under her control as a Postal Service Officer and employee. On the sixteen dates listed below, **JAMES** stole a total of \$2,611.61 from the Postal Service.

Incident #	Date	Money Orders Issued	Money Order Fees	Debit Card Remittal	Amount Stolen
1.	September 10, 2013	\$300.00	\$1.20	\$301.20	\$301.20
2.	September 23, 2013	\$100.00	\$1.20	\$101.20	\$101.20
3.	October 18, 2013	\$77.87	\$2.40	\$80.27	\$80.27
4.	October 25, 2013	\$69.00	\$1.20	\$70.20	\$70.20
5.	October 30, 2013	\$469.19	\$2.40	\$444.19	\$444.19
6.	December 13, 2013	\$80.00	\$1.20	\$81.20	\$81.20
7.	December 16, 2013	\$243.05	\$2.40	\$201.78	\$201.78
8.	December 19, 2013	\$129.75	\$1.20	\$133.25	\$133.25
9.	December 31, 2013	\$100.00	\$1.20	\$101.20	\$101.20
10.	January 7, 2014	\$110.00	\$1.20	\$111.20	\$111.20
11.	January 10, 2014	\$566.81	\$4.80	\$537.26	\$161.82
12.	January 14, 2014	\$184.00	\$1.20	\$185.20	\$185.20
13.	January 21, 2014	\$100.00	\$1.20	\$101.\$0	\$101.\$0
14.	January 24, 2014	\$62.00	\$1.20	\$63.20	\$63.20
15.	January 30, 2014	\$300.00	\$1.25	\$301.25	\$301.25
16.	February 3, 2014	\$275.23	\$6.25	\$173.25	\$175.23
	Total				\$2,611.61

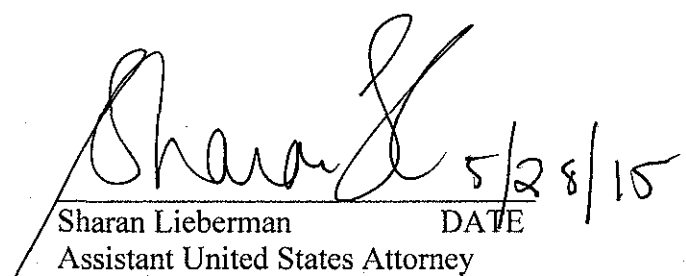
On or about February 7, 2014, agents from the USPS-OIG interviewed JAMES. Before speaking with her they explained her Miranda rights to her and she admitted that she stole the money from the Postal Service by reporting "money orders that were paid for in cash by debit

cards on my 1412." JAMES admits and agrees that the facts outlined in this Factual Basis accurately outline her role and culpability in the offense charged, and that she intentionally stole the funds from the Postal Service so that she could convert them to her own use.


READ AND APPROVED:


Counsel for Defendant
George Chaney

5/28/15
DATE


Sharan Lieberman
Assistant United States Attorney

5/28/15
DATE


Wanda James
Defendant

5/28/15
DATE