



NEWS RELEASE

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For Immediate Release

FAIRVIEW HEIGHTS WOMAN RECEIVES TEN MONTH SENTENCE FOR HURRICANE KATRINA SCAM

A. Courtney Cox, United States Attorney for the Southern District of Illinois, announced today that on February 13, 2009, **DEANGELA LYNNE DIXON**, age 49, of Fairview Heights, Illinois, received a ten month sentence of imprisonment following her conviction for committing a Hurricane Katrina related mail fraud. **DIXON** pleaded guilty to the charges on October 3, 2008. The factual stipulation filed at the time of the plea indicated that **DIXON** applied for Hurricane Katrina expedited assistance on September 5, 2005. **DIXON** represented to FEMA that, due to the Hurricane Katrina disaster, she was not able to access her residence, had suffered damage to her personal property, and had relocated to O'Fallon, Illinois. The New Orleans address listed on **DIXON's** FEMA application did not exist, and at the time New Orleans was devastated, Dixon was residing well outside of Hurricane Katrina's path in Gary, Indiana. **DIXON** illegally collected \$2,000 in FEMA aid and she has been ordered to repay that amount as well as a fine of \$250. Following release from imprisonment, **DIXON** will be on supervised release for three years.

The United States Attorney's Office for the Southern District of Illinois is a member of the Department of Justice's Hurricane Katrina Fraud Task Force. 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. Information for the **DIXON** indictment was obtained in an investigation conducted by the United States Postal Inspection Service

The case was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Suzanne M. Garrison.