



Department of Justice

United States Attorney Jim Letten

Eastern District of Louisiana

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
FRIDAY, OCTOBER 13, 2006
WWW.USDOJ.GOV/USAO/LAE/

CONTACT: KATHY ENGLISH
PH: (504) 680-3068
FX: (504) 589-4859

ANOTHER LOUISIANA MAN PLEADS GUILTY TO FEMA FRAUD

NEW ORLEANS — Morris Singleton, 23, of Houma, La., pleaded guilty to making false statements regarding his application to Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) for disaster assistance benefits, U.S. Attorney Jim Letten of the Eastern District of Louisiana announced today. Singleton pleaded guilty before U.S. District Judge Carl Barbier.

After Hurricane Rita struck Louisiana, Singleton applied for Expedited Assistance (EA) funds from FEMA, the \$2,000 many evacuees received from FEMA. Singleton indicated in his application that his primary address was a home located in Houma, La., and that he had essential needs for “food, clothing or shelter,” and that he had “disaster related moving and storage expenses,” when in truth, he never occupied or rented this property. According to the owner of the property, the home was vacant and was not leased to anyone during Hurricanes Katrina or Rita.

The maximum sentence Singleton could receive is five years in prison and a fine of \$250,000. Sentencing is set for Jan. 17, 2007.

“This case is yet another example of the U. S. Department of Justice’s commitment to investigate and prosecute any and all fraudulent attempts - no matter how large or small - to steal by fraud monies destined to help the recovery of those citizens who were legitimately displaced and harmed by Hurricanes Katrina and Rita,” stated U.S. Attorney Letten. “No abuse, fraud, theft or attempt to abuse the system will be tolerated.”

This case was investigated by Special Agents of the FBI assigned to the Katrina Fraud Task Force. This matter was prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Carter K. D. Guice.

###