



Department of Justice

United States Attorney Dunn Lampton Southern District of Mississippi

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
TUESDAY, OCTOBER 24, 2006
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CONTACT: SHEILA WILBANKS
PHONE: (601) 965-4480
FAX: (601) 965-4409

LOUISIANA MAN PLEADS GUILTY FOR FEMA HOTEL ASSISTANCE FRAUD

United States Attorney Dunn Lampton and FBI Special Agent in Charge John Raucci announced today that DERRICK SHANE MILLER of New Orleans entered a plea of guilty to one count of mail fraud in connection with a scheme to defraud FEMA in its Hotel Assistance program. MILLER admitted using his FEMA registration number to obtain multiple hotel rooms at nine (9) different hotels in Jackson, Mississippi from October, 28, 2005 through March 31, 2006. As a part of the plea, MILLER admitted that it was part of the scheme to defraud FEMA that MILLER rented the rooms to others for cash. The total amount of fraud was \$27,811.40.

MILLER was indicted on June 6, 2006 as a result of a joint investigation conducted by the Federal Bureau of Investigation and Mississippi Bureau of Narcotics with assistance provided by the Hinds County Sheriff's Office. MILLER was taken into custody by the Federal Bureau of Investigation in New Orleans on June 8, 2006. MILLER faces a maximum penalty of 20 years in prison and a \$250,000 fine.

U.S. Attorney Lampton said, "The Katrina Fraud Task Force is an unprecedented law enforcement effort which is aggressively pursuing all complaints of fraud in the wake of Katrina. This case represents another example of the cooperative law enforcement effort in place to detect and apprehend those who have committed fraud. If you commit fraud and are caught, you will be prosecuted."

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 members from the FBI, the Federal Trade Commission, the Postal Inspector's Office and the Executive Office of United States Attorneys, among others.

Pursuant to the Justice Department initiative, a local Katrina Fraud Task Force, consisting of over 20 Federal and State law enforcement agencies, was formed in the Southern District of Mississippi to pursue and prosecute individuals who file false and fraudulent claims.

If anyone has information concerning possible fraud being committed during the post-Katrina recovery effort, please call either the DHS-OIG Fraud Hotline at 1-866-720-5721 or the FBI Fraud Hotline at 1-800-225-5324.

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