



PRESS RELEASE

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**FORMER GOODWILL INDUSTRIES EMPLOYEE
PLEADS GUILTY TO FEDERAL THEFT CHARGE**

Defendant Embezzled More Than \$83,000 from Goodwill

ALBUQUERQUE – This morning, Francis Louis Carrillo, 48, of Albuquerque, N.M., pled guilty to stealing money from a program receiving federal funds under a plea agreement with the U.S. Attorney's Office, announced U.S. Attorney Kenneth J. Gonzales.

At sentencing, Carrillo faces a maximum penalty of ten years of imprisonment and a \$250,000 fine. Carrillo remains on conditions of release and under pretrial supervision pending his sentencing hearing, which has yet to be scheduled.

On May 23, 2012, Carrillo was charged with theft of government property and theft concerning programs receiving federal funds in a six-count indictment that alleged that he embezzled thousands of dollars in federal funds provided through grant programs administered by the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) and the Department of Labor (DOL). At the time, Carrillo was employed as the Deputy Director of Community Programs at Goodwill Industries of New Mexico (Goodwill).

According to the indictment, HUD funds the Supportive Housing Program (SHP) which provides affordable housing for low-income Americans and DOL funds the Senior Community Service Employment Program (SCSEP) which provides vocational training for older Americans. Although funded by HUD and DOL, the SHP and SCSEP are administered at the local level by community organizations and not-for-profit corporations. Goodwill, a not-for-profit corporation that provides skill development and vocational training opportunities to community members facing barriers to employment, received more than \$80,000 per year in 2008, 2009 and 2010 through the SHP and SCSEP programs. Goodwill was permitted to use these federal funds to provide short-term emergency rental assistance to local residents facing eviction and homelessness as the result of sudden job loss or other economic setback. The indictment alleges that, between 2008 and 2010, Carrillo engaged in a scheme to steal funds from Goodwill, including funds received through the SHP and SCSEP programs, by issuing false and fraudulent checks for short-term rental assistance.

During today's plea hearing, Carrillo entered a guilty plea to Count 6 of the indictment, charging him with theft concerning programs receiving federal funds. Carrillo's plea agreement states that Carrillo was employed by Goodwill from 2004 to 2010, where he initially held the title of Program Manager and later was promoted to Deputy Director of Community Programs. Carrillo's responsibilities included administering programs that received federal funds and approving applications by low-income clients for emergency rental assistance.

In his plea agreement, Carrillo admitted abusing his position at Goodwill by engaging in a scheme to approve and issue checks for false applications for emergency rental assistance. Upon issuance of the checks, Carrillo would have the payees either cash the checks and provide him with the funds, or endorse the checks so that Carrillo could cash them himself. Carrillo further admitted that, between 2006 and 2010, he caused approximately 130 checks to be issued by Goodwill under false pretenses and fraudulently converted the proceeds of those checks to his own use. During the course of his illegal scheme, Carrillo embezzled approximately \$83,320.75 from Goodwill.

Under the terms of Carrillo's plea agreement, Counts 1 through 5 of the indictment will be dismissed after Carrillo is sentenced.

The case was investigated by the HUD Office of Inspector General and DOL Office of Inspector General, and is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney John C. Anderson.

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