



U.S. Department of Justice

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PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Three North Carolina Residents Charged with Defrauding Luis Hospital

St. Croix, USVI - Charles Boyd Allen III, 36, of North Carolina was arraigned today in District Court on St. Croix on charges related to a scheme to defraud Governor Juan F. Luis Hospital of over \$60,000, United States Attorney Ronald W. Sharpe announced.

On November 15, 2011, a federal grand jury returned a 21- count indictment against Allen and two co-defendants, Dondrae Demas Johnson, 33, and Cassandra Gill, 19, both of North Carolina. Johnson and Gill were advised of their rights in a federal court in North Carolina, and are scheduled to be arraigned on January 31, 2012. A detention hearing is scheduled for Allen on January 13, 2012.

The indictment includes 11 charges against Allen, including possession of a stolen security, possession and utterance of a forged security, possession and utterance of counterfeit securities, and bank fraud. Johnson is charged with eight counts, including possession and utterance of counterfeit securities, and bank fraud. Gill is charged with two counts, possession and utterance of counterfeit securities and bank fraud.

According to the indictment, in March, 2010, Luis Hospital issued a check in the amount of \$6,000 payable to a Georgia physician who worked temporarily at the hospital. The check was

mailed to the physician's residence in Atlanta, Georgia.

According to the indictment, the physician never received the check. Instead, Allen obtained the check, fraudulently endorsed it with the physician's signature, and deposited it into a Wachovia Bank account in North Carolina. The indictment alleges that Allen counterfeited three other checks, all payable to him, that were purportedly issued by the Luis Hospital, and deposited them into his personal bank accounts.

The indictment alleges that co-defendants Johnson and Gill possessed counterfeit checks made payable to them purportedly issued by the Luis Hospital, and that they deposited the checks into their personal bank accounts in North Carolina. The fraudulent Luis Hospital checks deposited by the three defendants totaled in excess of \$60,000.

Bank fraud carries a maximum penalty of 30 years in prison, possession of a stolen security carries a maximum penalty of 10 years in prison, and possession and utterance of a forged security carries a maximum penalty of 10 years in prison.

An indictment is merely a formal charging document and is not evidence of guilt. Every defendant is presumed innocent until and unless proven guilty.

This case is being investigated by the Federal Bureau of Investigation. It is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Allan John Baptiste.