



Department of Justice

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Northern District of Georgia

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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MASS MAILER PLEADS GUILTY TO DEFRAUDING POSTAL SERVICE

Defendant Agrees to Pay \$378,695 in Restitution

Atlanta, GA - BRUCE JAMES REGISTER, 55, of McDonough, Georgia, pleaded guilty today in federal court to two counts of mail fraud against the United States Postal Service (USPS).

United States Attorney David E. Nahmias said, "When criminals defraud the United States Postal Service, it drives up its cost of doing business and victimizes all patrons who ultimately bear the burden of higher prices for U.S. Mail. Today, one more fraudster, who enriched himself at the expense of others, has been held accountable for his crimes."

"U.S. Postal Inspectors are responsible for protecting the sanctity of the nation's mail system. We remain resolute in our investigative efforts to bring those to justice who defraud the U.S. Postal Service, or those who fraudulently use the nation's mail system in the furtherance of their deceptive schemes. Make no mistake, those who choose this path, will not get away with it," said Martin D. Phanco, Postal Inspector in Charge, Atlanta Division.

According to United States Attorney Nahmias and the information presented in court: REGISTER is the Chief Executive Officer, Chief Financial Officer and Secretary of Target Marketing, Inc. (TMI), a mailing house that specialized in printing and mailing promotional materials for advertisers. Pursuant to a permit issued by the USPS, TMI was authorized to mail large quantities of first-class or standard (bulk) mail using discounted postage rates, after certifying that the mailings met certain guidelines established by the USPS. TMI's permit also allowed for further discounted postage rates if TMI agreed to transport the bulk mail, at its own expense, to the destination USPS postal facility. REGISTER devised a scheme to defraud the USPS by tendering bulk mail to the USPS for delivery accompanied by a USPS form purporting to show payment with a fraudulently obtained USPS date stamp when, in fact, no payment had been made. REGISTER also devised a second scheme to defraud the USPS by tendering first-class mail to the USPS for delivery accompanied by USPS forms purporting to present and pay for 3,500 pieces of mail when, in actuality, 37,426 pieces of mail had been tendered, knowing that the additional postage had not been paid.

REGISTER was charged in a Criminal Information in June 2009 on two counts of mail fraud. He pleaded guilty to both counts and deposited \$378,695.80 with the Clerk of the Court for payment of restitution to the USPS for the unpaid postage stemming from both fraud schemes. He could receive a maximum sentence of 40 years in prison and a fine of up to \$500,000. In determining the actual sentence, the Court will consider the United States Sentencing Guidelines, which are not binding but provide appropriate sentencing ranges for most offenders.

Sentencing is scheduled for September 16, 2009, at 3 p.m., before United States District Judge Orinda D. Evans.

This case is being investigated by Postal Inspectors of the United States Postal Inspection Service.

Assistant United States Attorney Jamila M. Hall is prosecuting the case.

For further information please contact David E. Nahmias (pronounced NAH-me-us), United States Attorney, or Charysse L. Alexander, Executive Assistant United States Attorney, through Patrick Crosby, Public Affairs Officer, U.S. Attorney's Office, at (404) 581-6016. The Internet address for the Home Page for the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Northern District of Georgia is www.usdoj.gov/usao/gan.