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**FORMER UNITED AIRLINES FLIGHT ATTENDANTS LOCAL PRESIDENT
CHARGED WITH EMBEZZLING \$10,000 FROM UNION FUNDS**

CHICAGO – The former president of the United Airlines flight attendants union local in Chicago was charged today with a federal theft offense for allegedly embezzling more than \$10,000 from the labor organization in 2003. The defendant, **Dianna K. Rushing**, a retired flight attendant and former president of Flight Attendants, Local Executive Council 8, was charged with embezzlement from a labor union in a single-count criminal information, announced by Patrick J. Fitzgerald, United States Attorney for the Northern District of Illinois. The case was investigated by the U.S. Department of Labor Office of Labor Management Standards.

Rushing, 54, of Palatine, will be arraigned at a later date in U.S. District Court in Chicago.

According to the charge, between July 11, 2003, and January 7, 2004, Rushing withdrew approximately \$10,452 from the local's bank account for her own use. All of the funds were later recovered.

The government is being represented by Assistant U.S. Attorney Gabriel A. Fuentes.

If convicted, Rushing faces a maximum penalty of five years in prison and a \$250,000 fine. The Court, however, would determine the appropriate sentence.

The public is reminded that an information contains only charges and is not evidence of guilt. The defendant is presumed innocent and is entitled to a fair trial at which the government has the burden of proving guilt beyond a reasonable doubt.

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