

December 21, 2007

**ROCKFORD WOMAN PLEADS GUILTY TO
EMBEZZLING \$33,770 FROM TEAMSTERS UNION LOCAL**

ROCKFORD – PATRICK J. FITZGERALD, United States Attorney for the Northern District of Illinois, together with JAMES VANDERBERG, Special Agent-In-Charge of the Chicago Region of the United States Department of Labor, Office of Inspector General, Office of Labor Racketeering and Fraud Investigations, and MARY J. KEBISEK, District Director of the Chicago District, Office of Labor-Management Standards, today announced:

KATHLEEN THOMPSON, 48, Rockford, Illinois, pleaded guilty today in federal court in Rockford, to embezzling \$33,770 from the International Brotherhood of Teamsters Local 325 (“Teamsters Local 325”), located in Rockford, Illinois. Thompson had been charged with the offense by an information filed in federal court on December 17, 2007.

In the plea agreement entered today, Thompson admitted that between April 18, 2004, and April 10, 2007, while an employee of the Teamsters Local 325, she embezzled funds from the union local. According to the plea agreement, Teamsters Local 325 regularly used its offices for bingo games and to sell “pull tabs,” and would cash checks for players. Thompson acknowledged that one of the players (“Player”) would give her a check and she would give cash back to the Player. At that Player’s request, Thompson would not turn the check over to the Teamsters Local 325. At the end of the evening, Thompson admitted, she would embezzle funds from the sales of pull tabs to cover the amount of the Player’s check. The plea agreement stated that Thompson hid the embezzlement by not reporting all of the sales of the pull tabs. According to the plea agreement, this practice continued until Thompson had embezzled more than \$33,000 from the union local.

Thompson faces a maximum possible penalty of five years in prison without the possibility of parole, followed by 3 years of supervised release, and a \$250,000 fine. She must be ordered to pay \$33,770 in restitution to Teamsters Local 325. The actual sentence will be determined by the United States District Court, guided by the federal Sentencing Guidelines and the Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure. Sentencing of Thompson was set by U.S. District Judge Philip G. Reinhard for May 9, 2008, at 11:00 a.m.

The case was investigated by the Chicago offices of the Department of Labor, Office of Inspector General, Office of Labor Racketeering and Fraud Investigations, and the Office of Labor-Management Standards. The case is being prosecuted in United States District Court by Assistant United States Attorney JOHN G. MCKENZIE.

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