

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
EASTERN DISTRICT OF LOUISIANA**

<b>UNITED STATES OF AMERICA</b>	*	<b>CRIMINAL DOCKET NO. 11-209</b>
v.	*	<b>SECTION: "K"</b>
	*	
<b>JAMES BRIDGER</b>	*	
	*	
	* * *	

**FACTUAL BASIS**

If this matter were to proceed to trial, the Government would prove beyond a reasonable doubt through the testimony of competent witnesses and the introduction of admissible evidence that **JAMES BRIDGER** ("**BRIDGER**"), being a manager of a common carrier, namely the New Orleans Public Belt Railroad ("**NOPBRR**"), did knowingly and willfully misapply and permit to be misapplied money and assets of the **NOPBRR** between 2007 and 2010.

More particularly, the Government would prove that the **NOPBRR** was a common carrier, in that it routinely transported railroad cars and freight traveling in interstate and foreign commerce in and around the City and Port of New Orleans at published rates and charges. The **NOPBRR** reimbursed **BRIDGER** for expenses out of moneys and assets derived from revenues generated from interstate commerce.

The government would introduce receipts of various personal entertainment expenses such as meals, entertainment, and alcoholic beverages that **BRIDGER** charged to his NOPBRR credit card and for which **BRIDGER** received reimbursement from NOPBRR funds. Various witnesses with personal knowledge would testify that these expenses were personal in nature and did not serve legitimate business purposes of the NOPBRR.

In addition, the government would introduce certain of **BRIDGER**'s e-mail messages corroborating the personal nature of these charges. For instance, in connection with a \$409.81 dinner at Ruth's Chris Restaurant on November 8, 2008 charged to the NOPBRR, **BRIDGER** e-mailed to a personal friend in pertinent part: "Excellent and I'm pleased that you will be joining us for dinner. I was thinking of getting our dinner reservation at Ruth's Chris downtown. Cocktails on the veranda sounds great so what time would you like to join us? After dinner our plan is to drop in on an art gallery opening on Julia Street for a few minutes."

The evidence would show that the amount of readily provable expenses which **BRIDGER** misapplied is \$5,667.00.

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Attorney for Defendant

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JAMES BRIDGER (Date)  
Defendant

New Orleans, Louisiana