



# Department of Justice

## United States Attorney Dunn Lampton Southern District of Mississippi

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### **LUMBERTON POLICE CHIEF ARRESTED FOR KATRINA FRAUD**

JACKSON, Miss. – The Chief of Police of Lumberton, Mississippi, was arrested and appeared, November 24, 2008, in U.S. District Court in Hattiesburg in response to an indictment returned by a federal Grand Jury alleging false claims to FEMA and the Small Business Administration for Hurricane Katrina disaster assistance funds, U.S. Attorney Dunn Lampton of the Southern District of Mississippi announced today.

**Maurice Hammond** of Poplarville was indicted by a federal Grand Jury for Hurricane Katrina related fraud. An eight count indictment alleges that Hammond filed a false claim for disaster assistance, made false statements to FEMA, stole government funds, and committed wire fraud. The indictment also alleges Hammond made a false statement to the Small Business Administration. If convicted of each count, Hammond faces up to 105 years imprisonment and up to \$2,000,000.00 in fines. Hammond was released on bond and was ordered to appear December 1, 2008, for arraignment.

In September, 2005, the United States Department of Justice created the national Hurricane Katrina Fraud Task Force, designed to deter, investigate and prosecute disaster-related federal crimes such as charity fraud, identity theft, procurement fraud and insurance fraud. The Hurricane Katrina Fraud Task Force - chaired by Acting Assistant Attorney General for the Criminal Division, Matthew Friedrich, includes members from the Department of Homeland Security Office of Inspector General, FBI, the Department of Housing and Urban Development Office of Inspector General, the Federal Trade Commission, the Department of Labor Office of Inspector General, the Postal Inspector's Office and the Executive Office of United States Attorneys, among others.

Pursuant to the Justice Department initiative, a local Katrina Fraud Task Force, consisting of over 20 Federal and State law enforcement agencies was formed in the Southern District of Mississippi to pursue and prosecute individuals who engage in fraud associated with the hurricanes. The Federal Bureau of Investigation, Special Agent Andrew Brewer is investigating Hammond.

If anyone has information concerning possible fraud being committed during the post-Katrina recovery effort, please call either the DHS-OIG Fraud Hotline at 1-866-720-5721 or the FBI Fraud Hotline at 1-800-225-5324.

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