



Department of Justice

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THREE MORE INDICTED IN BATON ROUGE, LOUISIANA, ON FRAUD CHARGES RELATED TO A HURRICANE DISASTER RELIEF PROGRAM

BATON ROUGE, LA – Three more Louisiana residents were indicted in federal court yesterday on fraud charges related to a hurricane disaster relief program, United States Attorney David R. Dugas announced.

COURTNEY N. BROWN, age 27, of Port Allen, Louisiana, was charged in a two-count indictment by a federal grand jury with mail fraud (Count One) and with illegal conversion of government property, that is, a check from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) for expedited disaster assistance (Count Two). If convicted on Count One, BROWN faces a maximum sentence of thirty years imprisonment, a \$1,000,000 fine, or both. If convicted on Count Two, BROWN faces a maximum sentence of ten years imprisonment, a \$250,000 fine, or both.

KIM CARTER, age 43, of Baton Rouge, Louisiana, and COREY A. MYLES, age 38, of Donaldsonville, Louisiana, were each charged in a two-count indictment by a federal grand jury with mail fraud (Count One) and with making a false and fraudulent claim for disaster assistance benefits (Count Two). If convicted on Count One, CARTER and MYLES each face a maximum sentence of thirty years imprisonment, a \$1,000,000 fine, or both. If convicted on Count Two, CARTER and MYLES each face a maximum sentence of five years imprisonment, a \$250,000 fine, or both.

These indictments, as well as the indictment against Pierre D. Taylor that was filed on March 15, 2007, stem from an ongoing investigation by the United States Postal Inspection Service, directed by J.W. (“Jack”) Galvin, Assistant Inspector-in-Charge for the Postal Inspection Service’s Houston Division, and Team Leaders Terry Barrett and C.T. (“Chuck”) Hillard, who supervise the Postal Inspection Service’s field offices in New Orleans and Baton Rouge, respectively. Galvin supervises a regional Postal Inspection Service unit that covers offices in Louisiana and Arkansas. Working with Barrett, Hillard, and the dedicated agents in New Orleans and Baton Rouge, Galvin has led the initiative to identify and investigate suspected mail fraud in connection with Hurricane Katrina disaster assistance benefits. The four specific cases referenced above were investigated by Postal Inspectors Richard Batchelder, Sheldon Jones, Joseph Okronley, Kyle Shipp, and Chad Swain. Postal Inspectors received assistance from the U.S. Department of Homeland Security’s Office of Inspector General.

Yesterday's indictments bring the total number of individuals who have been charged in the Middle District of Louisiana with violations related to hurricane disaster relief funds to one hundred three.

In September 2005, Attorney General Alberto R. Gonzales created the 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 Assistant Attorney General Alice S. Fisher of the Criminal Division – includes the FBI, the U.S. Inspectors General community, the U.S. Secret Service, the U.S. Postal Inspection Service, the Executive Office for United States Attorneys and others.

For further information, contact David R. Dugas, U.S. Attorney for the Middle District of Louisiana, or Lyman Thornton, First Assistant U.S. Attorney, at (225) 389-0443. Anyone suspecting criminal activity involving disaster assistance programs can make an anonymous report by calling the toll-free Hurricane Relief Fraud Hotline, 1-866-720-5721, 24 hours a day, seven days a week, until further notice. Information can also be emailed to the Hurricane Katrina Fraud Task Force at HKFTF@leo.gov or sent by surface mail, with as many details as possible, to Hurricane Katrina Fraud Task Force, Baton Rouge, LA 70821-4909.

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