



Department of Justice

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Southern District of Indiana**

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PUTNAM COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT CONTRACT EMPLOYEE CHARGED WITH THEFT OF GOVERNMENT GRANTS

PRESS RELEASE

Timothy M. Morrison, Acting United States Attorney for the Southern District of Indiana, announced that GEORGE E. ALEXANDER, 59, Greencastle, Indiana, was charged late yesterday with two counts of federal program fraud, following an investigation by the United States Department of Justice, Office of the Inspector General, Federal Bureau of Investigation and the Indiana State Police.

GEORGE E. ALEXANDER, a contract employee of the Putnam County Sheriff's Department has been charged with diverting to his personal use a total of \$45,000 in federal government grant money, contained in two separate grants on December 16, 2005 and September 15, 2006.

As an agent of the Putnam County, Indiana Sheriff's Department, ALEXANDER applied for an Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant from the United States Department of Justice, in order to establish a Putnam County Sheriff's Department Emergency Response Team. The \$27,143 that constituted this grant was electronically transferred to a Sheriff's Department special project account in December, 2005, but was withdrawn by ALEXANDER by a cashier's check payable to ALEXANDER. The monies were deposited in ALEXANDER's personal savings and checking accounts, and the remaining \$2,000 was given to ALEXANDER in cash.

A second grant for the Putnam County, Indiana Sheriff's Department Emergency Response Team in the amount of \$18,384 was applied for by ALEXANDER and again deposited in the Sheriff's Department account in September, 2006. ALEXANDER withdrew the money in the same manner as before, depositing the proceeds between his personal savings and checking account, and keeping \$1,500 in cash.

According to Assistant United States Attorney James M. Warden, who is prosecuting the case for the government, ALEXANDER faces a maximum possible prison sentence of 10 years and a maximum possible fine of \$250,000 on each count.

Also, filed yesterday was a Petition to Plead Guilty signed by ALEXANDER, indicating his intentions to plead guilty to the charges. The matter will be set for a hearing before the U.S. District Judge assigned to the case.

The defendant is presumed innocent until and unless convicted at trial or following a guilty plea accepted by the court.

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