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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**FORMER DHSMV EMPLOYEE SENTENCED TO PRISON
FOR CONSPIRING TO RECEIVE GRATUITIES AND TO
MAKE FALSE STATEMENTS IN DHSMV APPLICATIONS**

Tampa, FL - U.S. District Judge James S. Moody today sentenced YOLANDA PIPPINS to 21 months' imprisonment, 36 months' supervised release, and a \$1,000 fine for conspiracy to make false statements and to corruptly solicit and accept things of value in connection with the actions of a State government agency, in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 371. In August 2006, PIPPINS pled guilty to a one count Information charging her with that violation.

PIPPINS was an employee of the Florida Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles and worked at its Largo office. According to court documents she conspired with other individuals to obtain and receive money and things of value in exchange for approving applications by various license holders to obtain Commercial Drivers Licenses ("CDLs"). She approved these applications despite the lack of qualification of the applicants. In exchange for those actions, PIPPINS received money and things of value from other co-conspirators who steered the CDL applicants to her.

The case was investigated by the United States Department of Transportation-Office of Inspector General, the Florida Department of Law Enforcement, and the Florida Highway Patrol, and the Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles. The case is being prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Robert T. Monk.