

UNITED STATES ATTORNEY'S OFFICE



*United States Attorney Donald W. Washington
Western District of Louisiana*

United States Courthouse • 300 Fannin Street, Suite 3201 • Shreveport, Louisiana 71101-3068 • (318) 676-3600

United States Courthouse • 800 Lafayette Street, Suite 2200 • Lafayette, Louisiana 70501-7206 • (337) 262-6618

For Immediate Release

October 30, 2006

<http://www.usdoj.gov/usao/law>

Contact: Donald W. Washington (337-262-6618)

William J. Flanagan (318-676-3600)

FORMER OPELOUSAS POLICE CHIEF SENTENCED IN FEDERAL COURT FOR MAKING A FALSE CLAIM

Former Police Chief Larry Caillier sentenced to home confinement

Lafayette, Louisiana . . . United States Attorney Donald W. Washington announced that **LARRY J. CAILLIER**, age 58, from Opelousas, Louisiana, was sentenced today in federal court to 5 years probation with 10 months home confinement to be followed by 3 years supervised release by United States District Judge Richard T. Haik for presenting a false claim to a federal agency. CAILLIER was also ordered to pay \$26,300 in restitution and after that amount is paid, he will be liable for whatever portion is remaining on the \$63,255 total of the false claim.

A federal Bill of Information was filed against CAILLIER in December 2005 following an investigation conducted by the Federal Bureau of Investigation, Louisiana Office of Legislative Auditor, and the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development. CAILLIER pled guilty to the charge in May 2006.

U.S. Attorney Washington stated, "No one is above the law and the law applies equally to everyone

without regard to their station in life. It is an unfortunate situation for a trusted public figure who has done so many good deeds for his community to find himself with a felony conviction. However, we have an obligation to prosecute all who misuse or steal federal funds.”

The Opelousas Housing Authority entered into three contracts in 2000 with the Opelousas Police Department to provide police officers for a bicycle patrol to combat illegal drug trafficking in public housing. The bicycle patrol was a federally-funded program under the Public Housing Drug Elimination Program grant from the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) awarded to the Opelousas Housing Authority. According to the contracts, the Opelousas Police Department was responsible for providing four bicycle patrolmen and one supervisor for five days a week, four hours each day.

Officers participating in the bicycle patrol prepared and submitted time sheets for the days worked. Using these time sheets, the Opelousas Housing Authority paid the Opelousas Police Department for the bicycle patrols. From August 2000 to June 2003, the Housing Authority paid the Opelousas Police Department \$225,000 for bicycle patrols. Of the \$225,000, CAILLIER and Major Ronnie Trahan received \$36,955 which was not related to performing bicycle patrols in or around public housing facilities.

Between August 2000 and June 2003, CAILLIER, then Chief of Police, submitted to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, through the Opelousas Housing Authority, claims for payment that he knew were false, fictitious or fraudulent.

Ronnie Trahan was charged in federal court with aiding and abetting in the filing of a false claim by Bill of Information on October 23, 2006.

Sentencing in federal court is determined by the discretion of federal judges and the governing statute. Parole has been abolished in the federal system.

The case is being prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Stephanie A. Finley.

###