

U.S. Department of Justice

Stephen J. Murphy United States Attorney Eastern District of Michigan

Suite 2001 211 West Fort Street Detroit, Michigan 48226-3277

For Immediate Release:

Contact: Gina Balaya (313) 226-9758

Stephen Moore, IRS CI (313) 234-2410

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EVENT: Indictment

Defendant: Bobbie Jean Sinko et al

Two Mt. Pleasant Area Rresidents Indicted by a Federal Grand Jury in Bay City on Charges of Conspiracy to Defraud the United States Postal Service

Two Mt. Pleasant area residents, Bobbie Jean Sinko, 51, and Matthew E. English, 48, have been indicted by a federal grand jury in Bay City on charges of conspiracy to defraud the United States Postal Service, United States Attorney Stephen J. Murphy announced today.

Murphy was joined in the announcement by Joseph A. Pirone, Jr., Inspector In Charge of the Detroit Division of the U.S. Postal Inspection Service.

The 38-count indictment alleges that Sinko, who was a bulk mail technician at the Mt. Pleasant post office for many years, and English, the owner of English Direct Mail Services LLC in Mt. Pleasant, a company which prepared bulk mail for submission to the post office and would then submit the mail to the Mt. Pleasant postal facility for delivery, conspired to defraud the postal service of over \$1000.00. Sinko and English are also jointly named in 25 separate counts of defrauding the postal service in a series of mailings beginning in 2005 and extending through the fall of 2007. Sinko, who was dismissed from her employment when the fraud was discovered, is also named individually in 12 additional counts of defrauding the postal service by manipulating internal post office records in such a way that bulk mailings presented to the postal service by Central Michigan University were mailed for free.

United States Attorney Stephen J. Murphy said, "Any collusion between a U.S. Postal

Service employee and a private mail service to defraud the United States Postal system presents a serious criminal undertaking that my office will not allow to continue. We are committed to investigating and prosecuting these types of cases and commend the U.S. Postal Inspection Service for the their thorough investigation of this matter."

Inspector Pirone emphasized, "These indictments follow an eight-month investigation by Postal Inspectors and the U.S. Attorney's Office. As federal law enforcement agents we continually strive to protect the assets of the U.S. Postal Service, secure the nation's mail system and ensure public trust in the mail."

An indictment is only a charge and is not evidence of guilt. A defendant is entitled to a fair trial in which it will be the government's burden to prove guilt beyond a reasonable doubt.

The case was investigated by the United States Postal Inspection Service. The case is being prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney James A. Brunson.