



Department of Justice

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

05/14/07

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FORMER FULTON COUNTY CHIEF DEPUTY SHERIFF PLEADS GUILTY TO ACCEPTING CORRUPT PAYMENTS

Atlanta, GA - David E. Nahmias (pronounced NAH-me-us), United States Attorney for the Northern District of Georgia, today announced that a United States District Judge unsealed a criminal information charging CAUDELL JONES, 55, of Atlanta, Georgia, the former Chief Deputy of the Fulton County Sheriff's Department, with defrauding the citizenry of Fulton County of its right to expect JONES's faithful and honest services. Also unsealed was JONES's guilty plea to these charges before United States District Judge Willis B. Hunt. The charges and JONES's guilty plea were both filed, under seal, on May 10, 2007.

United States Attorney Nahmias said, "JONES has admitted to using his supervisory position at the Fulton County Sheriff's Department to solicit and accept corrupt payments from people trying to do business with the County. This corruption erodes the public trust, raises public costs, and will not be tolerated."

According to Nahmias and the documents and information presented in court: JONES solicited and received cash and other items of value, including the use of a Cadillac Escalade automobile, from individuals seeking to do business with the Sheriff's Department and the County. In particular, JONES solicited and accepted more than \$10,000 in cash payments from BYRON RAINNER, a former investment advisor who sought and was awarded substantial investment business from the Sheriff's Department, in connection with millions of dollars of property forfeiture proceeds held by the Department. Among other payments, JONES received a Federal Express package containing cash from RAINNER at JONES's home in East Point, Georgia in January 2004. RAINNER has previously been charged with and has pleaded guilty to defrauding the County of over \$2 million in connection with this business.

JONES pleaded guilty to the corruption charges, and is scheduled to be sentenced at 10 a.m., August 7, 2007, before the Honorable Willis B. Hunt in federal court in Atlanta. In his plea agreement, JONES has agreed to assist Government investigators. He is facing maximum potential jail time of 20 years, along with a \$250,000 fine, and restitution.

This case is being investigated by Special Agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

Assistant United States Attorney Justin S. Anand is prosecuting the case.

For further information please contact David E. Nahmias (pronounced NAH-me-us), United States Attorney, or Charysse L. Alexander, Executive Assistant United States Attorney, through Patrick Crosby, Public Affairs Officer, U.S. Attorney's Office, at (404) 581-6016. The Internet address for the HomePage for the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Northern District of Georgia is www.usdoj.gov/usao/gan.