



Department of Justice

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FBI EMPLOYEE PLEADS GUILTY TO ILLEGALLY ACCEPTING GRATUITY

WASHINGTON – A Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) employee pleaded guilty today to accepting an illegal gratuity for the performance of his official duties, Acting Assistant Attorney General Matthew Friedrich of the Criminal Division announced today.

Curtis Jones, 47, a resident of Annapolis, Md., pleaded guilty today before Chief Judge Benson Everett Legg in U.S. District Court in Baltimore to a single count indictment that charged him with acceptance of an illegal gratuity. Sentencing has been scheduled for Sept. 18, 2008. Jones was a physical security specialist with the FBI at the Bureau's headquarters in Washington, D.C., at the time of his arrest.

According to the indictment, as an equipment program manager for the FBI, Jones was responsible for negotiating, reviewing and making recommendations regarding a blanket purchase agreement valued at nearly \$2 million for the purchase of upgraded shredders to meet new national security standards for the destruction of classified information. While in that capacity, Jones reviewed and approved the bid of an undisclosed company (Company A) and subsequently served as the liaison for all FBI field offices to submit their purchase requests to Company A for new shredders.

Shortly after visiting the company and approving their machines for purchase, Jones accepted an offer from Company A for him and his family to join Company A's top executives and sales people on a cruise in the Caribbean over the 2003 – 2004 New Year's holiday. The total value of the gratuity, including lodging and airfare, was approximately \$7,500.

At sentencing, Jones faces up to two years in prison, a fine of \$250,000, and supervised release following his incarceration.

This case is being prosecuted by Trial Attorneys Daniel Schwager and Peter Koski of the Criminal Division's Public Integrity Section, which is headed by Chief William M. Welch II. The case is being investigated by the Office of the Inspector General for the Department of Justice.

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