



**U.S. Department of Justice**

*United States Attorney  
District of Maryland  
Northern Division*

*Allen F. Loucks  
United States Attorney*

*Vickie E. LeDuc  
Public Information Officer*

*6625 United States Courthouse  
101 West Lombard Street  
Baltimore, Maryland 21201-2692*

*410-209-4800  
TTY/TDD:410-962-4462  
410-209-4885  
FAX 410-962-3091  
Vickie.LeDuc@usdoj.gov*

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**FOR FURTHER  
INFORMATION CONTACT  
VICKIE E. LEDUC, AUSA  
(410) 209-4885**

**STEPHEN AMOS INDICTMENT DISMISSED**

**Baltimore, Maryland** - United States Attorney for the District of Maryland Allen F. Loucks announced that today, upon the government's motion, United States District Court Judge Andre M. Davis dismissed the three count Indictment returned in March, 2004 alleging the misapplication of federal grant funds by Stephen P. Amos while he was Executive Director of the Governor's Office of Crime Control and Prevention.

The Indictment's central allegation was that Mr. Amos misapplied federal grant funds overseen by the Office of Justice Programs, United States Department of Justice, by hiring, through a third party, additional staff for his office. The federal grants at issue allow the grantee to use up to 10 percent of a grant award for its administrative costs, including the hiring of staff, and require that the remaining 90 percent be used for programs. The Government expected to prove at trial that Mr. Amos used approximately 25 percent of the funds for administrative purposes.

Although numerous requests were made by the prosecutors and agents to relevant governmental agencies during the course of the investigation for any documentation supporting or

discussing the use of program funds for administrative purposes, on December 17, 2004 the government learned for the first time of a 1989 legal opinion written by an official of the Office of Justice Programs concerning the use of program funds for administrative purposes. This legal opinion is subject to varying interpretations. A strict reading of one portion of the document supports the proposition in the Indictment that the Defendant could not allocate the money in the manner alleged. Another reasonable interpretation of the full opinion supports Mr. Amos' position that the manner in which the funds were allocated was permissible. The government has concluded that this newly-obtained document is likely to raise a reasonable doubt in the minds of jurors as to whether Mr. Amos intended to violate the law and thus, moved to dismiss the Indictment.

Mr. Loucks stated that "In every case prosecuted by the United States Attorney's Office, the decision as to whether to prosecute an individual is based solely upon the evidence. The investigation of this case was initiated only after multiple credible sources with inside knowledge came to us with information that a crime had been committed. Our office appropriately considered credible information provided to us concerning a potential crime. At the time the Indictment was returned the evidence supported a successful prosecution of this case. This newly obtained evidence, however, requires our Office to move to dismiss the charges against Mr. Amos."