



Department of Justice
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GUILTY PLEA TO MAKING FALSE STATEMENTS
TO A FEDERAL CREDIT UNION
AND MAKING FALSE STATEMENTS TO A BANK

BATON ROUGE, LA – United States Attorney David R. Dugas announced that KERYN GOYNES, age 48, of Baton Rouge, Louisiana, pled guilty on September 18, 2007, to an indictment charging her with three counts of making false statements to a federal credit union or a bank.

According to the stipulated facts in the plea agreement, GOYNES and her employer (L.F.), in or about February 2006, began discussions with KeyPoint Federal Credit Union to arrange for a small business loan in the amount of \$409,891.98. In the course of those discussions, GOYNES falsely represented to KeyPoint that L.F. had been approved for a disaster loan from the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) in the amount of \$1,494,127. In furtherance of the scheme, GOYNES pretended to be an SBA employee and falsified an SBA “Mortgage Loan Commitment,” as well as an SBA “Unconditional Guarantee,” which documents were presented to KeyPoint. Based on the false and fraudulent pretenses and representations regarding the fictitious SBA loan, KeyPoint approved and funded a loan with L.F. in the amount of \$409,891.98.

Also according to the stipulated facts in the plea agreement, in or about May 2006, GOYNES began negotiations with American Gateway Bank (American Gateway) on behalf of L.F. for a loan of approximately \$2.4 million. In the scheme to defraud American Gateway, GOYNES again pretended to be an SBA employee and provided American Gateway with an appraisal of collateral property valued at \$3,410,000, stating that the appraisal was requested by the SBA and prepared by an SBA employee, with a cover letter on SBA letterhead. In or about June 2006, GOYNES falsely represented to American Gateway that L.F. had been approved for a disaster loan from the SBA in the amount of \$1,494,127. Based on the false and fraudulent pretenses and representations regarding the SBA appraisal and SBA loan, American Gateway approved and funded three loans with L.F. totaling approximately \$2,487,000.

If convicted, GOYNES could receive a maximum sentence of thirty years imprisonment, a maximum fine of \$1,000,000, or both, per count.

The case was investigated by the U.S. Secret Service and the U.S. Small Business Administration’s Office of Inspector General, and was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Richard L. Bourgeois, Jr.

Special Agent in Charge Matthew L. Issman stated that the Small Business Administration Office of Inspector General stands committed to working with all of our stakeholder partners in the Hurricane Katrina Fraud Task Force to aggressively seek out, investigate and prosecute those who would greedily seek to profit and with fraudulent intent take advantage of government disaster assistance programs to which they are not entitled. This seven-month joint investigation is yet another success story of government law enforcement agencies and prosecutors working together with a common mission.

In September 2005, Attorney General Alberto R. Gonzales created the Hurricane Katrina Fraud Task Force, designed to deter, investigate and prosecute disaster-related federal crimes such as charity fraud, identity theft, procurement fraud and insurance fraud. The Hurricane Katrina Fraud Task Force – chaired by Assistant Attorney General Alice S. Fisher of the Criminal Division – includes the FBI, the U.S. Inspectors General community, the U.S. Secret Service, the U.S. Postal Inspection Service, the Executive Office for United States Attorneys and others.

For further information, contact David R. Dugas, U.S. Attorney for the Middle District of Louisiana, or Lyman Thornton, First Assistant U.S. Attorney, at (225) 389-0443. Anyone suspecting criminal activity involving disaster assistance programs can make an anonymous report by calling the toll-free Hurricane Relief Fraud Hotline, 1-866-720-5721, 24 hours a day, seven days a week, until further notice. Information can also be emailed to the Hurricane Katrina Fraud Task Force at HKFTF@leo.gov or sent by surface mail, with as many details as possible, to Hurricane Katrina Fraud Task Force, Baton Rouge, LA 70821-4909.

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