



# Department of Justice

**Timothy M. Morrison, Acting United States Attorney  
Southern District of Indiana**

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## **NOBLESVILLE RESIDENT CHARGED WITH THEFT OF FUNDS OF RIVER CLEAN-UP, INC.**

### PRESS RELEASE

Timothy M. Morrison, Acting United States Attorney for the Southern District of Indiana, announced that LANCE BUSBY, 35, Noblesville, Indiana, was charged today with having forged and negotiated checks drawn on the bank account of River Clean-Up, Inc., following an investigation by the Indiana State Police.

The information alleges that River Clean-Up, Inc., located in Hamilton County, Indiana, is an Indiana corporation that removed litter and debris from the White River. River Clean-Up is a not-for-profit company funded by contributions from public and private sources.

Checks written on the bank account maintained by River Clean-Up required two signatures, that of the President and that of the Vice President of River Clean-Up.

Lance Busby was the Vice President of River Clean-Up. Busby, who was a signator on the River Clean-Up account with the President of River Clean-Up, was responsible for maintaining the financial books and records of River Clean-Up. Busby also was responsible for making deposits into and writing checks on the River Clean-Up account.

BUSBY also owned and operated T&L Watersports d/b/a Scuba Quest ("Scuba Quest"), located in Noblesville, Indiana. Scuba Quest sold scuba diving equipment, provided scuba diving lessons, and sponsored scuba diving trips.

The information further alleges that commencing on October 31, 2003, and continuing through on or about December 20, 2006, Busby forged approximately 35 checks totaling approximately \$111,951 drawn on the River Clean-Up account. Busby forged these checks through two means. Busby caused some of the checks to be falsely completed by making checks that had been signed by the President of River Clean-Up payable to himself, his wife, Scuba Quest, or employees of Scuba Quest. Busby also forged the signature of the President of River Clean-Up on checks he made payable to himself, his wife, Scuba Quest, or employees of Scuba Quest. Busby caused all of the falsely completed and forged checks to be negotiated for his personal benefit.

Busby engaged in this illegal activity in a failed attempt to keep Scuba Quest, which was in dire financial straits, in business. The investigation did not reveal any evidence that Busby's wife, any members of Busby's family, or any of Scuba Quest's employees were complicit in Busby's illegal conduct.

According to Assistant U. S. Attorney Joe H. Vaughn, who is prosecuting the case for the government, Busby faces a maximum possible prison sentence of 10 years and a maximum possible fine of \$250,000. An initial hearing will be scheduled before a U.S. Magistrate Judge in Indianapolis, Indiana.

**The information is an allegation only, and the defendant is presumed innocent unless and until proven guilty at trial or by guilty plea.**

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