



Department of Justice

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ANOTHER CHARGED WITH DISASTER RELIEF FRAUD IN BATON ROUGE, LOUISIANA

BATON ROUGE, LA – United States Attorney David R. Dugas announced that another Louisiana resident was charged yesterday in federal court with aiding and abetting making false statements in connection with a claim filed in a federal hurricane disaster relief program.

CARRIE J. WILLIAMS, age 39, of Donaldsonville, Louisiana, was charged in a bill of information in federal court yesterday with aiding and abetting making false statements in connection with the filing of an application for a Road Home Grant. The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) and the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) provided assistance to victims of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita through grants to homeowners to fund the repair and restoration of storm damaged homes. In Louisiana, grants under this program were called Road Home Grants. The bill alleges that in or about January 2008, WILLIAMS forged the signature of another on a false bill of sale and receipts, pretending to be the prior owner of a mobile home, thereby aiding and abetting the submission of false and fraudulent documents to HUD and FEMA in support of a Road Home Grant application. The submission of the fraudulent application resulted in a loss of approximately \$28,966.60.

The charges resulted from an investigation conducted by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's Office of Inspector General. If convicted, WILLIAMS faces a maximum sentence of five years imprisonment, a \$250,000 fine, or both.

Yesterday's charge brings the total number of individuals who have been charged in the Middle District of Louisiana with violations related to hurricane disaster relief funds to one hundred fifty-six.

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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