



Department of Justice

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Southern District of Indiana**

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NOBLESVILLE RESIDENT SENTENCED FOR THEFT OF FUNDS FROM RIVER CLEAN-UP, INC.

PRESS RELEASE

Timothy M. Morrison, United States Attorney for the Southern District of Indiana, announced that LANCE BUSBY, 35, Noblesville, Indiana, was sentenced to 20 months imprisonment today by U.S. District Judge Larry J. McKinney following his guilty plea to having forged and negotiated checks drawn on the account of River Clean-Up, Inc. This case was the result of an investigation by the Indiana State Police.

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.

BUSBY was the Vice President of River Clean-Up. BUSBY, who was a signator on the River Clean-Up account, 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.

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 prosecuted the case for the government, Judge McKinney also imposed 2 years of supervised release following BUSBY's release from imprisonment. During the period of supervised release, BUSBY will be subject to the supervision of the United States District Court. BUSBY also was ordered to make restitution in the amount of \$111,951 to River Clean-Up.

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