



Department of Justice

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Eastern District of Louisiana

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

THURSDAY, MARCH 8, 2012
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WEST VIRGINIA MAN CHARGED WITH CONSPIRACY TO COMMIT THEFT IN CONNECTION WITH A PROGRAM RECEIVING FEDERAL FUNDS

NEW ORLEANS, LOUISIANA - TRELIS SMITH, age 35, a resident of Reedsville, West Virginia, was charged in a one-count bill of information filed today for conspiracy to commit theft in connection with a program receiving federal funds, announced U. S. Attorney Jim Letten.

According to the Bill of Information, **SMITH**, d/b/a Parish-Dubuclet Services, Inc., a New Orleans Affordable Homeownership (NOAH) contractor, engaged in a conspiracy to steal funds provided by the U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development in the form of annual Community Development Block Grants (CDBG) exceeding \$10,000 designed to support home remediation work to residences following Hurricane Katrina.

If convicted, **SMITH** faces a maximum term of imprisonment of five (5) years, a \$250,000 fine, three (3) years of supervised release following any term of imprisonment, and a \$100 special assessment.

U. S. Attorney Letten reiterated that the Bill of Information is merely a charge and that the guilt of the defendant must be proven beyond a reasonable doubt.

The case was investigated by the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development Office of Inspector General, the U. S. Department of Homeland Security Office of Inspector General, the Internal Revenue Service, Criminal Investigation, and the New Orleans Office of Inspector General. The case is being prosecuted by Deputy Chief of the Criminal Division, U. S. Fred P. Harper, Jr.



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