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**Brunswick Man Sentenced for False Claims and Theft of Public Money**

Portland, Maine: United States Attorney Thomas E. Delahanty II announced that on April 5, 2012, United States District Judge D. Brock Hornby sentenced **Travis P. Soule**, 47, of Brunswick, Maine, to a total of 14 months imprisonment, followed by 3 years of supervised release, and \$180,000 worth of restitution for his convictions for making false claims to the government and theft of public money.

According to court records, between about June 27, 2007 and about May 8, 2008, Travis Soule or one of his business partners, employees or agents presented to the City of Lewiston Office of Economic and Community Development (OECD) a total of 17 claims for disbursement of HOME Program funds in the form of loan proceeds. These claims were false in the respects that the work was either not done at all, the money was used for some other purpose, the invoice substantially overstated the work that was done, the invoice had been altered to inflate the cost of the work, and/or the work that was done cost substantially less than the amount invoiced, claimed and reimbursed.

In response to these claims, the City of Lewiston's OECD made 17 disbursements of a total of about \$180,000 worth of HOME Program funds to Travis Soule or one of his business employees or agents. Travis Soule or one of his business partners, employees or agents embezzled, stole, converted and without authority disposed of most of these funds by forging the endorsements of the contractor/second party payee, depositing the funds into a general operating account and using them for purposes other than remodeling and rehabilitating the Pine Street properties.

At the sentencing, Judge Hornby emphasized the public's need for just punishment, to promote the respect for law, and to generally deter white collar crime.

The investigation was conducted by the United States Departments of Housing and Urban Development Office of Inspector General, and Lewiston Police Department.

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