



# Department of Justice

United States Attorney William J. Hochul, Jr.  
Western District of New York

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## MAN PLEADS GUILTY IN THEFT OF FEMA BENEFITS CASE

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ROCHESTER, N. Y.-- Antonio Oneal, 28, of Rochester, NY, pleaded guilty today before U.S. District Judge David G. Larimer, to a one count felony information charging him with the theft of public money, U.S. Attorney William J. Hochul, Jr. of the Western District of New York announced today. The theft of public money offense carries a maximum penalty of 10 years imprisonment, and a fine of \$250,000.

Assistant U.S. Attorney Tiffany H. Lee, who handled the case, stated that the defendant admitted that on or about March 12, 2006, while residing in the Western District of New York, he had applied for Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) disaster assistance for damages he allegedly suffered as a result of Hurricane Katrina. The defendant completed an on-line application for FEMA assistance and claimed that at the time Hurricane Katrina made landfall in August 2005, he was residing at 2515 North Rampart Street, New Orleans, Louisiana. The defendant claimed that due to Hurricane Katrina, he was forced to relocate to Rochester, New York. As a result of filing this claim for disaster assistance, on or about May 15, 2006, United States Treasury Check number 26350393 in the amount of \$6,138.92 was issued by FEMA, and mailed to the defendant at a residence in Rochester, New York. In truth and in fact, the defendant was residing and working in Rochester, NY during the time that Hurricane Katrina made landfall. The defendant knew that he was not entitled to FEMA Katrina relief when he applied and yet he cashed the check he received from FEMA and used it for his own benefit.

The plea was the culmination of an investigation on the part of Special Agents from the Department of Homeland Security, Office of Inspector General, under the direction of Greg Null, Special Agent in Charge.

Sentencing is scheduled for November 19, 2010 at 10:30am, in Rochester, NY, in front of U.S. District Judge David G. Larimer.

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