Department of Justice

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Middle District of Louisiana

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INDICTMENT IN BATON ROUGE, LOUISIANA, ON CHARGES OF CONSPIRACY, WIRE FRAUD, MAIL FRAUD, MONEY LAUNDERING, ACCESS DEVICE FRAUD, AGGRAVATED IDENTITY THEFT, BANK FRAUD, COMPUTER FRAUD, AND OBSTRUCTION OF JUSTICE

BATON ROUGE, LA – United States Attorney David R. Dugas announced today the unsealing of a 25-count third superseding indictment returned by a federal grand jury on May 22, 2008. The indictment was placed under seal pending the arrest of certain of the defendants charged in the indictment. The third superseding indictment charges that ROBERT THOMPSON and others engaged in two conspiracies to obtain and use the personal and financial information of over 55 individuals and businesses, without their knowledge or authorization, to steal from their bank accounts and use their credit to obtain things of value, including attempting to steal $20,000,000 from one victim's bank accounts.

The first conspiracy allegedly occurred from June 2006 until September 2007 and included THOMPSON bribing a prison guard $10,000 to provide him with cell phones to further the conspiracy. The second conspiracy allegedly occurred from April 5, 2008, until May 1, 2008, and included THOMPSON and others using an apartment to store fraudulently obtained items.

The charged defendants include:

ROBERT THOMPSON, a.k.a. John Lawson, age 41, of Zachary, Louisiana, charged with multiple counts of conspiracy, wire fraud, mail fraud, money laundering, access device fraud, aggravated identity theft, bank fraud, computer fraud, obstruction of justice, and forfeiture

ECKNOZZIO C. JACKSON, age 38, of Baton Rouge, Louisiana, charged with conspiracy, mail fraud, and bank fraud. He has pled guilty to mail fraud and bank fraud in connection with his agreeing to a $10,000 bribe from Thompson

CHARLENE B. JACKSON, age 40, of New Iberia, Louisiana, charged with conspiracy to commit wire fraud and money laundering

SEDRIC L. JACKSON, age 35, of Baton Rouge, Louisiana, charged with conspiracy to commit wire fraud and object justice and wire fraud

DACOBIA L. HAMILTON, age 31, of Baton Rouge, Louisiana charged with conspiracy to commit wire fraud and obstruct justice

ZELBONY O. TAYLOR, age 32, of Baton Rouge, Louisiana, charged with conspiracy to commit wire fraud and obstruct justice

KATHY J. STERLING, age 39, of Baton Rouge, Louisiana, charged with conspiracy to commit wire fraud and obstruct justice and wire fraud

TERILYN L. JACKSON, age 35, of Baton Rouge, Louisiana, charged with conspiracy to commit wire fraud and obstruct justice

MURKEL L. PARKER, age 33, of Baton Rouge, Louisiana, charged with conspiracy to commit wire fraud and obstruct justice

Two other individuals have also been charged in this investigation. BARBARA J. THOMAS, a former corrections officer at J.B. Evans Correctional Center, has pled guilty to wire fraud in connection with her involvement in this matter. KELVIN ARCHIE has been charged in a bill of information with one count of use of an authorized access device and awaits trial. A total of 11 individuals have been charged in this investigation.

This ongoing investigation is being led by the U.S. Attorney's Office, the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the East Baton Rouge Parish Sheriff's Office, and the security and investigations staff of the Elayn Hunt Correctional Center. Many other agencies have assisted in the investigation, including the Madison Parish Sheriff's Office; the Concordia Parish Sheriff's Office; the East Feliciana Parish Sheriff's Office; the Ascension Parish Sheriff's Office; the Hardeman County, Tennessee, Sheriff's Office; the Bolivar, Tennessee, Police Department; the Baton Rouge Police Department; and the Louisiana Department of Corrections.

This matter is being prosecuted by Deputy Criminal Chief Corey R. Amundson.

NOTE: An indictment is a determination by a grand jury that there is probable cause to believe that offenses have been committed by the defendants. The defendants, of course, are presumed innocent until and unless they is proven guilty at trial.

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