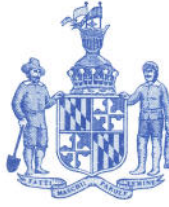


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For Immediate Release

January 15, 2009

Baltimore City Housing Assistant Commissioner Lindbergh Carpenter, Jr. Pleads Guilty to Theft Of Gift Cards

State Prosecutor, Robert A. Rohrbaugh, has announced today that Baltimore City Housing Assistant Commissioner Lindbergh Carpenter, Jr. has entered a plea of guilty in the District Court of Maryland for Baltimore City to theft under the amount of five hundred dollars (\$500).

Mr. Carpenter, 44 of Owings Mills, has been employed by the City of Baltimore as Assistant Commissioner of the Community Action Partnership in the Department of Housing and Community Development.

In December of 2007, Mr. Carpenter purchased Toys R Us gift cards for the specific purpose of distributing those cards to needy children of Baltimore City during the Mayor's Holly Trolley Charitable Tour. Mr. Carpenter stole seven (7) of the Toys R Us gift cards, amounting to one hundred and forty dollars (\$140) and used those cards in May of 2008 to buy a Nintendo Wii, valued at approximately two hundred and sixty-five dollars (\$265). Mr. Carpenter paid the balance due on the purchase with cash.

Mr. Carpenter faced a maximum penalty of imprisonment of eighteen (18) months or a fine not to exceed five hundred dollars (\$500) or both. The Court sentenced Mr. Carpenter to a one-year period of probation and 250 hours of community service.

Under the terms of his plea, Mr. Carpenter is required to cooperate fully with the Office of the State Prosecutor in any on-going investigations and prosecutions.

The State Prosecutor, Robert A. Rohrbaugh, said, "There can be no excuse for public servants stealing from the very people who they are supposed to be serving. Public employees who steal from the needy should be, and will be, prosecuted -- regardless of the position they hold or the amount they have stolen."

For further inquiries, contact Special Agent William McMonagle at the Office of the State Prosecutor.

AGREED STATEMENT OF FACTS

It is agreed by and between the State of Maryland, by Robert A. Rohrbaugh, State Prosecutor, and Thomas M. McDonough, Deputy State Prosecutor, and Lindbergh Carpenter, Jr. and his attorney, John Hannaway, Esquire, that the plea of guilty entered by Lindbergh Carpenter is supported by the following facts and evidence:

In December of 2007, Defendant Lindbergh Carpenter was employed by the City of Baltimore, Department of Housing and Community Development as Assistant Commissioner of the Community Action Partnership. During the Holiday Season, Carpenter worked on the Mayor's Holley Trolley tour, a program through which toys and gift cards are distributed to needy City children at Christmas time.

Carpenter and members of his staff went to Toys R Us and purchased toys and gift cards. The majority of the gift cards were of \$20 denominations. Housing has an account with Toys R Us and is invoiced for the purchases. All Housing purchases from Toys R Us were made specifically for the Holley Trolley Tour. The funds for the purchase came from the city and are approved by the Board of Estimates. There are no private funds used for the Holley Trolley Tour. Carpenter explained that Housing officials do not keep a list of desired toys, but they recalled from memory the needs of the previous year and purchased what they anticipated would be needs for the 2007 tour.

Following their purchase by Carpenter and his staff, gift cards were placed by Carpenter into the Housing Authority's safe. On the morning of December 20, 2007, toys and the gift cards were put on a housing authority truck. Carpenter spent most of the tour in a Housing truck which was full of toys and gift cards.

The tour stopped at designated locations throughout the afternoon of December 20, 2007, where Toys R Us toys and gift cards were distributed to needy families. The planning and coordinating for the Tour was done by members of Housing. In 2007, these coordinators were; Deputy Commissioner Reginald Scriber, Liaison to the Mayor Richard Burton, Carpenter, Linda Cotton-Jones, and others. At each location, the toys and gift cards were distributed.

Mayor Sheila Dixon and members of her staff were on the Trolley in 2007. Other Baltimore City officials, including Housing Deputy Commissioner Reginald Scriber, Volunteer Service Coordinator Linda Cotton-Jones and others, attended the Trolley event. The trolley lasted from about 3pm until about 7:30pm and made about four scheduled stops. At some of the stops, families were pre-registered and waiting.

Carpenter gave handfuls of the gift cards to Deputy Commissioner Reginald Scriber at the Trolley stops as needed. The cards were then distributed Mayor Dixon and other officials and employees to the needy families.

There were about 25 gift cards left over, as well as some toys. The toys were divided among the different Community Action Centers, and Carpenter returned the gift cards to the Housing Authority safe. On or about December, 2007, Lindbergh Carpenter removed seven (7) of the remaining gift cards from the safe at Housing in Baltimore City. On or about May 21, 2008, he then used those seven gift cards, totaling \$140.00 in value, to purchase a Nintendo Wii Console, a video game device, for his family at a cost of \$264.99. He paid the balance of the purchase price in cash. Lindbergh Carpenter's transaction was captured on video tape at the Toys R Us store where he made the purchase.

Lindbergh Carpenter had no permission or authority to remove the seven (7) gift cards purchased by the City for distribution to the needy from the safe at Housing and convert them to his personal use.

1/14/09
Date

/s/
Thomas M. McDonough
Deputy State Prosecutor

1/15/09
Date

/s/
Lindbergh Carpenter

1/15/0
Date

/s/
John Hannaway, Esquire
Attorney for Lindbergh Carpenter