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PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Saturday, February 25, 2006

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Former Friendship Station Postal Clerk pleads guilty to stealing money from stamp sales

Washington, D.C. - Lyndon A. Derouen, a former Postal Service Station Sales and Service Associate, has pled guilty to stealing money from stamp sales, United States Attorney Kenneth L. Wainstein announced today.

Derouen, 42, of Suitland, Maryland, pleaded guilty yesterday in U.S. District Court before Magistrate Judge John M. Facciola. The defendant was arrested on January 12, 2006, by agents from the Postal Inspection Service and the Office of Inspector General ("OIG") pursuant to a warrant for the theft. He faces up to 10 years in prison on his plea when he is sentenced by United States District Judge Colleen Kollar-Kotelly in June of this year, although he probably will receive significantly less time or even probation under the federal sentencing guidelines.

According to the statement of offense filed in this matter, which was agreed to by the defendant, the United States Postal Service ("USPS") operated the Friendship Station Post Office at 4005 Wisconsin Avenue, NW, in the District of Columbia ("the Post Office"). The defendant was employed as a Sales and Service Associate at the Post Office who had within his duties the sales of postage stamps to the general public. From about September of 2005, until about January of 2006, the defendant devised a scheme to embezzle and misappropriate postal funds. It was part of the scheme that the defendant repeatedly and on a regular and continuing basis, when conducting

postage stamp sales to the public, would manipulate his cash register showing a sale, but where the defendant would simply pocket the cash from the sale for his personal use.

By way of example, videotape monitoring of the defendant for the period of December 21, 2005, through January 9, 2006, showed that the defendant failed to report at least 125 transactions for a total of \$3,281.69 in postage sales. The defendant was observed on videotape removing money from his cash drawer and placing it in his pants pocket on at least 29 occasions.

On January 12, 2006, the defendant gave a statement to the investigators in this matter. In his statement, the defendant admitted illegally taking the postal funds since the end of October of 2005. He admitted that he did this through manipulating his cash register during the stamp sales.

The investigators in this matter documented that the defendant illegally took, during the period September of 2005 to January of 2006, \$12,166.85 in postal funds.

In announcing the defendant's guilty plea, U.S. Attorney Wainstein praised the hard work of Postal Inspector Jeremy Wiesel of the Postal Inspection Service and OIG Special Agent Michael Carlson. They also acknowledged the efforts of Legal Assistant Teesha Tobias, as well as Assistant U.S. Attorney Daniel P. Butler, who is prosecuting this matter.

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