



Department of Justice

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Middle District of Florida

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Friday, April 3, 2009			PHONE: (813) 274-6136	
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TAMPA MAN PLEADS GUILTY TO WIRE AND FOOD STAMP FRAUD

Tampa, Florida - United States Attorney A. Brian Albritton announced today that Anton Goubrial (age 47, of Tampa) has pleaded guilty to wire fraud and food stamp fraud in connection with the federal food stamp program. Goubrial faces a maximum penalty of 25 years in federal prison.

According to the plea agreement, Anton Goubrial operated Watson's Food Town, a retail convenience store located at 3311 Fifth Avenue North, St. Petersburg. Watson's Food Town participated in the federal Food Stamp program. Goubrial would acquire food stamp benefits from Watson's Food Town customers by unlawfully purchasing them. He paid the customers less than the face value of the stamps, a practice commonly known as "discounting." Over the course of the scheme, Goubrial conducted numerous illegal "discounting" transactions resulting in a loss or diversion of approximately \$174,000 in food stamp benefits.

This case was investigated by the U.S. Secret Service, Florida Department of Law Enforcement, and the United States Department of Agriculture, Office of the Inspector General. It is being prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Terry A. Zitek.