



Department of Justice

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Tampa Orlando
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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 Naushad Shahabuddin (age 34, of Tampa) has pleaded guilty to wire fraud and food stamp fraud in connection with the federal food stamp program. Shahabuddin faces a maximum penalty of 25 years in federal prison.

According to the plea agreement, Shahabuddin operated Quick Check Food Mart, a retail convenience store located at 701 N. Fort Harrison Avenue, Clearwater. Quick Check Food Mart participated in the federal food stamp program. Shahabuddin would acquire food stamp benefits from Quick Check Food Mart 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, Shahabuddin conducted numerous illegal "discounting" transactions resulting in a loss or diversion of approximately \$390,000 in food stamp benefits.

This case was investigated by the U.S. Secret Service, the 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.