



# NEWS RELEASE

Office of the United States Attorney  
Eastern District of Texas

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***FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE***

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## **FORMER HUD EMPLOYEE SENTENCED FOR EMBEZZLEMENT**

(Beaumont, Texas)                      A 55-year-old former accountant for the Diboll Housing Authority has been sentenced to 5 months in federal prison for embezzling over \$78,000 in HUD funds over a five year period. United States District Judge Thad Heartfield also sentenced **JIMMIE L. WOODARD** to 120 days home confinement, electronic monitoring, three years supervised release and a \$10,000 fine. Woodard, of Diboll, had already made full restitution in the amount of \$78,046 to HUD before sentencing.

According to information prosecutors presented in court, Woodard embezzled over \$78,000 in HUD funds by failing to deduct monies from her payroll checks to cover federal withholding taxes and to cover personal loan payments to a credit union for over a 5 year period. Woodard pled guilty to a one-count information charging theft from a Federal program (Title 18, U.S.C. Section 666) filed on February 20, 2004.

**United States Attorney Matthew D. Orwig praised the work of the HUD investigators, "It is often difficult to investigate and prosecute fellow employees. Theft from within the system is so**

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**disheartening, but the HUD investigators did an excellent job of rooting out this fraud and bringing Ms. Woodard to justice."**

The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Office of Inspector General investigated the case. Assistant U.S. Attorney Malcolm Bales prosecuted the case.

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