



# Department of Justice

United States Attorney Donald J. Cazayoux, Jr.  
Middle District of Louisiana

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**FORMER COMMISSIONER OF THE LOUISIANA OFFICE OF ALCOHOL AND TOBACCO CONTROL INDICTED FOR COMPUTER FRAUD, MAKING FALSE STATEMENTS, AND AGGRAVATED IDENTITY THEFT**

BATON ROUGE, LA – First Assistant United States Attorney J. Walter Green announced that a Federal Grand Jury returned an indictment on Wednesday, May 23, 2012, charging former Commissioner of the Louisiana Office of Alcohol and Tobacco Control (ATC), MURPHY J. PAINTER, 59, of Gonzales, Louisiana, with computer fraud, making false statements, and aggravated identity theft.

As Commissioner of the ATC, PAINTER was authorized to access and use law enforcement databases for criminal justice purposes in accordance with state and federal law. The Indictment alleges that PAINTER made false statements to the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) and thereby obtained personal identification information of several area individuals from the National Crime Information Center (NCIC) computerized information system for non-official criminal justice purposes. The Indictment also alleges that PAINTER exceeded his authorized access to a protected computer and obtained personal identification information of several area individuals from the Louisiana Law Enforcement Telecommunications System (LLETS) through the Law Enforcement Message Switch (LEMS).

If convicted, PAINTER faces a maximum sentence of 82 years in prison. PAINTER is subject to fines of \$12,600,000.

Inspector General Stephen Street commented, “Mr. Painter repeatedly used the law enforcement power of his office to invade the privacy of innocent citizens who had committed no crime and were not under investigation. In several instances that we identified, Mr. Painter physically went to the homes of these people and conducted covert surveillance upon them and their neighbors. That is an outrageous abuse of authority, and it was entirely necessary and appropriate for the United States Attorney and the Inspector General to take strong action to put a stop to it.”

The Indictment is the result of a lengthy investigation by agents of the Louisiana Office of Inspector General. The case is being prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorneys M. Patricia Jones and Cam T. Le.

NOTE: An indictment is a determination by a grand jury that probable cause exists to believe that offenses have been committed by a defendant. The defendant is presumed innocent until and unless proven guilty at trial.

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