



***United States Attorney
Southern District of New York***

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
JULY 12, 2005**

**CONTACT: U.S. ATTORNEY'S OFFICE
HERBERT HADAD, MEGAN GAFFNEY
PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICE
(212) 637-2600**

**U.S. ARRESTS CITY WELFARE OFFICE WORKER FOR STEALING
IDENTITY INFORMATION OF OVER 500 WELFARE RECIPIENTS**

DAVID N. KELLEY, the United States Attorney for the Southern District of New York; RONALD WALKER, the Special Agent in charge of the New York Division of the United States Postal Inspection Service ("USPIS"); MICHAEL THOMAS, the Special Agent in charge of the New York Field Office of the Internal Revenue Service ("IRS"); and ROSE GILL HEARN, Commissioner of the New York City Department of Investigation ("DOI"), announced that JAMAL GREEN was arrested today and charged with stealing the Social Security Numbers and other personal identifying information of at least 589 New York City welfare recipients, and selling that information to be used to file fraudulent tax returns seeking tax refunds from the IRS.

According to a Complaint unsealed today in Manhattan federal court, GREEN is a maintenance worker employed by a company that has a contract to manage the New York City welfare office located at 260 East 161st Street in the Bronx, New York. The Complaint alleges that on at least four occasions in 2004 and 2005 GREEN stole computer printouts containing the names, Social

Security Numbers, and other personal identifying information of welfare recipients from the New York City welfare office where he worked. In total, GREEN stole the personal identifying information of at least 589 City welfare recipients, according to the Complaint.

The Complaint further charges that, after stealing the computer printouts from the welfare office, GREEN sold the stolen personal identity information of City welfare recipients to other individuals who used the information to file fraudulent tax returns seeking tax refunds. According to the Complaint, in many instances, the false tax returns yielded the maximum available Earned Income Tax Credit, which resulted in a refund of approximately \$2,500 per tax return. The tax returns were filed without the knowledge or authorization of the individuals whose personal identifying information had been stolen, the Complaint alleges, and the individuals who used the stolen identity information to file the fraudulent tax returns kept the tax refunds for themselves. The Complaint alleges that numerous individuals who have been involved in filing fraudulent tax returns have already been charged and convicted of federal identity theft and tax fraud offenses.

If convicted of the charges, GREEN faces a maximum sentence of 17 years' imprisonment.

Mr. KELLEY praised the efforts of the USFIS, the IRS, and the DOI. He said the investigation is continuing.

Assistant United States Attorney ELIE HONIG is in charge of the prosecution.

The charges contained in the Complaint are merely accusations, and the defendant is presumed innocent unless and until proven guilty.

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