

# Department of Justice

Acting United States Attorney Kathleen Mehlretter  
Western District of New York

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## **FORMER ADAMS BASIN POSTMASTER PLEADS GUILTY TO STEALING MONEY FROM THE POST OFFICE**

ROCHESTER, N.Y.-- JOSEPH A. BASSETT, 55, of Rochester, New York, pled guilty to a two count felony indictment charging him with Theft of Government Property and Misappropriation of Postal Funds announced Acting U.S. Attorney Kathleen M. Mehlretter. Each charge carries a maximum penalty of 10 years imprisonment, a fine of up to \$250,000, or both.

Assistant U.S. Attorney Craig R. Gestring, who handled the case, stated that the defendant was the Postmaster for Adams Basin, N.Y. from October 2005 to October 2007. As Postmaster, Bassett was responsible for all the cash, stamps, money orders and other accountable items at the Adams Basin Post Office. Today, Bassett admitted in Federal Court that he stole several thousand dollars from his Post Office throughout the time he was Postmaster.

The plea was the culmination of an investigation on the part of the United States Postal Service - Office of Inspector General under the direction of Special Agent in Charge Joseph Finn.

The defendant will be sentenced before the Honorable Charles J. Siragusa in United States District Court on November 2, 2009.