



Department of Justice

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Former Postal Employee Pleads Guilty to Mail Obstruction

ALBANY, NY – Glenn T. Suddaby, U.S. Attorney for the Northern District of New York, and Jeffrey Doetterl, Assistant Special Agent in Charge, U.S. Postal Service, Office of Inspector General, Buffalo, New York, announced today that former postal employee **LISA SEAR**, age 36, of Johnstown, New York, pled guilty before the Honorable Randolph F. Treece in United States Court Magistrate Court in Albany, New York, to the crime of Obstruction of the Mail. Sentencing is scheduled for February 13, 2008, in Albany.

In connection with her guilty plea today, **SEAR** admitted that she was employed with the U.S. Postal Service as a temporary rural carrier in Johnstown, NY from July 24, 2006, through the end of December 2006. **SEAR**'s job was to deliver the mail on postal rural route one in Johnstown, NY, as a substitute for the regularly-assigned carrier, on one day a week and occasions when the regular carrier was unavailable. An investigation by the Office of Inspector General for the Postal Service determined that on or about October 23, 2006, and between on or about December 13 and December 21, 2006, **SEAR** stole at least four first class or priority U.S. mail parcels that had been addressed to be delivered to residents along her assigned postal route. The packages contained movies, jewelry, video games and miscellaneous Christmas gifts, including a book and candy. The value

of the items totaled approximately \$547.31. One of the items of mail that **SEAR** obstructed was a priority mail package containing a sapphire and diamond ring valued at \$407.94 which was properly deposited with the Postal Service by ShopNBC.com to an addressee on County Highway 107 in Johnstown, NY.

" Postal employees are entrusted with delivering the mail. When even one employee betrays that trust and steals, rifles, destroys or delays that mail, the Office of Inspector General aggressively investigates," said Jeffrey Doetterl, Assistant Special Agent in Charge.

The case was investigated by the Office of Inspector General for the United States Postal Service, Albany, NY, and is being prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Tina Sciocchetti of the United States Attorney's Office for the Northern District of New York.

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