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POSTAL SERVICE EMPLOYEE INDICTED AND ARRESTED FOR
MISAPPROPRIATION OF POSTAL FUNDS
Defendant embezzled in excess of \$154,495.71

SAN JUAN, P.R. - Today, agents of the United States Postal Service Office of Inspector General arrested Bolivar Maldonado-Cabrera for misappropriation of postal funds and theft of public money, announced Rosa Emilia Rodríguez-Vélez, United States Attorney for the District of Puerto Rico. The defendant is a six-year employee of the U.S. Postal Service who works as a Sales and Service Distribution Associate at the Mercedita Post Office in Ponce, PR.

The indictment alleges that from April 2008 until October 2009, Maldonado-Cabrera engaged in a continuing scheme whereby he would accept payment from customers purchasing postal money orders. Then, instead of passing one blank money order through the money order printer at a time, the defendant would pass two blank money orders through the money order printer simultaneously. By doing this, only the top money order was imprinted with the payment information provided by the customer, while the bottom money order was read by the Postal Service's computer system but otherwise remained blank. After the customer left with his/her valid money order, the defendant would void the bottom money order and refund to himself an amount equal to the printed top money order. All the while, the postal customers who were issued valid money orders by the defendant never knew that they were used to perpetuate a fraudulent scheme.

A review of all the money order transactions issued by the Mercedita Post Office for the duration of the scheme reflects that Bolivar Maldonado-Cabrera embezzled in excess of \$154,495.71 in money order funds from the U.S. Postal Service.

“The defendant took advantage of his position in the Postal Service and stole directly from the government of the United States,” said United States Attorney Rosa Emilia Rodríguez-Vélez. “The assistance of the U.S. Postal Service OIG in this type of case is essential for our success in prosecuting these criminals, we appreciate their efforts and look forward to our continued collaboration.”

“The Office of Inspector General is committed to working with the United States Attorney's Office to investigate and prosecute employees suspected of stealing from the U.S. Postal Service,” said Rafael Medina, Assistant Special Agent in Charge of the OIG office in San Juan. “The vast majority of Postal employees are hard working members of our community, but those who betray the trust and use their position for personal gain should know that they will be investigated and prosecuted to the fullest extent of the law.”

If convicted, the defendant could face a maximum penalty of 10 years imprisonment and/or a fine of up to \$250,000.

This investigation was conducted by the United States Postal Service Office of Inspector General and the case is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Marshal D. Morgan.

Criminal indictments are only charges and not evidence of guilt. A defendant is presumed to be innocent until and unless proven guilty.

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