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MADIGAN: PERRY COUNTY WOMAN PLEADS GUILTY TO THEFT OF PUBLIC FUNDS

Chicago — Attorney General Lisa Madigan announced that a Pinckneyville woman pleaded guilty today to charges of theft and income tax fraud for allegedly stealing more than \$200,000 from the Pinckneyville Rural Fire Protection District (PRFPD).

Tammy Kellerman, 52, of Pinckneyville, pleaded guilty in Perry County Criminal Court to one count of theft of government funds over \$100,000, a Class X felony; one count of official misconduct, a Class 3 felony; and one count of filing a fraudulent Illinois income tax return, a Class 4 felony. Kellerman, a former PRFPD employee, was sentenced to six years in the Illinois Department of Corrections (IDOC) and ordered to pay restitution.

Kellerman embezzled \$242,040 from the PRFPD for her own personal use and failed to disclose the funds on her state income tax returns. Kellerman was previously convicted on four counts of related federal mail fraud charges and sentenced to two years and nine months in the Federal Bureau of Prisons, which will run concurrent to her IDOC prison sentence.

"This defendant abused her position and stole taxpayer funds that should have been used to benefit the community," Madigan said.

"Individuals who defraud our state's tax system by filing fraudulent tax returns must be held accountable for their actions," said Connie Beard, Illinois Department of Revenue Director. "I commend the Attorney General, Illinois State Police and Revenue's Criminal Investigations Division for their efforts in securing a guilty plea in this case."

Assistant Attorneys General Eugene Bian and Gregory Stucka handled the case for Madigan's Special Prosecutions Bureau. The investigation was conducted in cooperation with the Illinois State Police and the Illinois Department of Revenue, Criminal Investigations Division, with assistance from the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

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