



St. Charles Parish Sheriff's Office

Public Information

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Greg Champagne
Sheriff

News Release

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GUILTY PLEA OF THREE FORMER EMPLOYEES

Today, three former St. Charles Parish Sheriff's Office employees plead guilty to felony charges. Below is a press release from the St. Charles Parish District Attorney regarding the terms of the plea agreement at today's court proceedings:

Former Sheriff's Office Employees Rodney Madere Jr., Zain Stillinger, and Derek Pertuis each plead guilty today to Felony Theft between \$5,000.00 to \$25,000.00, as well as Abuse of Office and Public Payroll Fraud.

SUMMARY OF SENTENCING

After pleading guilty, Rodney Madere Jr. received the maximum sentence for each felony: ten years for felony theft, five years for abuse of office, and two years for public payroll fraud. Those sentences were suspended and ordered to be served concurrently. The ten-year sentence will be supervised by the Department of Probation and Parole for a period of three years.

Furthermore, Rodney Madere Jr. was sentenced to twelve months of home incarceration under continuous GPS ankle-monitoring paid for at his own expense and was also ordered to pay restitution to the State totaling: \$75,028.77 as well as an additional fine of \$5,000.00.

After pleading guilty, Derek Pertuis received a five-year sentence for felony theft, five years for abuse of office, and two years for public payroll fraud. Those sentences were suspended and ordered to be served concurrently. The five-year sentence will be supervised by the Department of Probation and Parole for a period of three years.

Furthermore, Derek Pertuis was sentenced to six months of home incarceration under continuous GPS ankle-monitoring paid for at his own expense and was also ordered to pay restitution to the State totaling: \$2,716.39 as well as an additional fine of \$5,000.00.

After pleading guilty, Zain Stillinger received a five-year sentence for felony theft, five years for abuse of office, and two years for public payroll fraud. Those sentences were suspended and ordered to be served concurrently. The five-year sentence will be supervised by the Department of Probation and Parole for a period of three years.

Furthermore, Zain Stillinger was sentenced to six months of home incarceration under continuous GPS ankle-monitoring paid for at his own expense, and was also ordered to pay restitution to the State totaling \$1,970.43 as well as an additional fine of \$2,500.00.

Sheriff Champagne issued the following statement upon being informed about the plea agreement:

Today, three former St. Charles Parish Sheriff's Office employees plead guilty to felony charges resulting from a betrayal of the trust of taxpayers and their co-workers. Over the last year, I have declined to comment publicly regarding any of the facts of the extensive ongoing investigation so that our dedicated detectives could put together a case that left the defendants with no choice but to plead guilty.

This agency has taken affirmative steps to move forward and continues to work to establish internal checks and balances that will ensure that something like this never happens again.

I thank District Attorney Joel Chaisson and his staff, as well as our detectives, for their work in this unpleasant task of investigating and prosecuting formerly trusted co-workers.