

Trentonian.com

03/21/2007

Ewing man pleads guilty to embezzlement

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TRENTON -- A Ewing man pleaded guilty in federal court yesterday to stealing nearly \$500,000 from the Wachovia Bank in Ewing.

Richard F. Harriott, who is also known as Richard Harrison, a Jamaican national, admitted he took a total of \$496,000 from the Pennington Road bank, said U.S. Attorney Christopher J. Christie.

Employed as a teller manager from April 2004 to January 2006, Harriott explained he repeatedly submitted false transaction reports indicating that various customers had made transactions when, in fact they didn't.

Harriott attempted to cover up the thefts from his cash drawer, but was fired from his job.

Arrested and charged with embezzlement on Jan. 25, 2006, didn't stop Harriott from returning to the Wachovia Bank branch after it closed for business and taking an additional \$351,000 from two automated teller machines, said Greg Reinert, public affairs officer with Christie's office.

Authorities arrested Harriott again on Feb. 21, 2006 on a grand jury indictment and charged him with embezzlement of funds from his cash drawer.

On April 25, 2006 he was arrested on a separate indictment for the ATM thefts.

He pleaded guilty to the theft from the drawer and for taking the money from the ATM machines.

When he is sentenced on July 25, he faces a maximum sentence of 30 years in jail for the drawer thefts and a \$250,000 fine and 20 years in prison and a \$250,000 fine for the ATM thefts.



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