



## **Bodden sentenced to 25-month term for bank fraud**

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**By AMBER CRAIG**

MOSS POINT -- Former Moss Point Alderman Al Bodden was sentenced Monday morning to 25 months in federal prison and three years of supervised release for bank fraud.

Bodden appeared before District Judge Louis Guirola after his sentencing was delayed three times in March for scheduling conflicts and, more recently, because the federal prosecutor and the defense attorney disputed the amount of money involved in the case.

It could take a couple of months before a prison is chosen and Bodden is allowed to surrender.

Bodden was also ordered to pay \$6,000 in fines but no restitution, because he has already made complete restitution on the six fraudulent bank loans, totaling more than \$125,000.

Bodden, who represented Ward 6, was arrested August and charged with six counts of identity theft, six counts of bank fraud and one count of witness tampering as part of business dealings as owner of Al Bodden's Supercenter on Main Street in Moss Point.

Later, all counts but one were dropped as part of a plea bargain.

Bodden admitted stealing the identities of former customers and forging their names and then using their information to secure one bank loan from Navigator Credit Union in Pascagoula and five from then AmSouth Bank in Birmingham. AmSouth Bank has since merged into Regions Bank.

One victim, David Mitchell, revealed the scheme in late April 2006 after he received payment coupons from Navigator Credit Union for a \$26,000 loan on a 2006 GMC truck. Mitchell contacted the Federal Bureau of Investigation, and Mitchell wore an FBI wire when Bodden offered him \$2,000 in hush money.

After Bodden resigned his alderman's position in December in accordance with state law, George Martin Jr. won a special election to fill his seat.

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