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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
July 28, 2014

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**Trenton Man Charged with Stealing \$19,000
in Superstorm Sandy Relief Funds**

TRENTON – A Trenton man was arrested last week, and charged with filing false applications and receiving approximately \$19,000 in federal relief funds in connection with Superstorm Sandy, Mercer County Prosecutor Joseph L. Bocchini Jr. reported.

Darryl Reaves, 52, of Sanhican Drive, was taken into custody at his apartment at approximately 7.a.m. on July 24 by detectives with the Mercer County Prosecutor's Office. He is charged with one count of third-degree theft by deception, one count of third-degree tampering with public records and one count of fourth-degree unsworn falsification.

The investigation revealed that Reaves claimed to have suffered both residential and personal property damage to his rental apartment located on Sanhican Drive in Trenton. He submitted multiple rental agreements that all indicated he was renting a residence on Bellevue Avenue in Trenton while work was completed on his former apartment. In reality, there was no damage to the Sanhican Drive apartment and Reaves continuously resided there during the time he was receiving rental assistance through the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). He received a total of \$18,936 in FEMA rental assistance funds.

Reaves was transported to the Mercer County Correction Center. His bail was set at \$25,000 cash or bond.

Third-degree crimes carry a penalty of three to five years in state prison and a fine of up to \$15,000. Fourth-degree crimes carry a penalty of up to 18 months in prison and a fine of up to \$10,000.

Bocchini credited his Economic Crime Unit, FEMA and the Office of the Inspector General of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security with the investigation leading to the arrest. The case is being prosecuted by Senior Assistant Prosecutor James Scott, chief of the ECU.

Despite having been charged, all persons are presumed innocent until found guilty beyond a reasonable doubt in a court of law.

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