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## Former Bridgeton postmaster in federal court for allegedly stealing \$17,000 from U.S. Postal Service

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By **Jason Laday/The News of Cumberland County**

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**BRIDGETON** — Former Bridgeton Postmaster Daniel Mayo has been charged with stealing more than \$17,000 in fraudulent checks from the U.S. Postal Service during his tenure in charge of the city post office.



Mayo made his first appearance in federal court Tuesday in Camden, where he was released on a \$50,000 bond after waiving his preliminary hearing, according to officials. The case is scheduled to pick up again in 60 days.

"Basically, the allegation is that Mayo input fictitious hours into the U.S. Postal Service payroll system (for an employee who had since resigned)," said Scott Balfour, special agent with the U.S. Postal Service Office of Inspector General.

"(Mayo) then intercepted those checks that came in, and he transferred the money to his own account."

In all, Mayo allegedly claimed 15 fraudulent checks totaling \$17,792.78 between August 2009 and September 2010.

He is charged with misappropriation of postal funds and aiding and abetting.

Mayo began working for the postal service in 1988, and worked his way up to postmaster in Gibbstown in 1999. He was transferred to Bridgeton as postmaster in July 2005.

For unrelated disciplinary reasons, the U.S. Postal Service downgraded Mayo to supervisor of customer service and transferred him to Camden in November 2010.

USPS Southern New Jersey Spokesman Ray Daiutolo declined to offer details on what led to Mayo's demotion, stating the postal service does not comment publicly on internal disciplinary matters.

According to the criminal complaint filed against Mayo, dated April 26, newly installed Bridgeton Postmaster Brian DeRossi at some time after November 2010 discovered a W-2 tax form from that year for a Bridgeton post office employee who had resigned in May 2009.

The employee, identified in the complaint as Kristie Watson-Cullison, had been a rural mail carrier who reported to Mayo until her resignation.

DeRossi declined to comment on the case on Tuesday.

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However, after DeRossi reported his finding to his superiors, a review of daily financial reports from Mayo's time at the Bridgeton post office reportedly revealed that, on several occasions, the former postmaster received money orders, in lieu of cash, in exchange for paychecks written out to Watson-Cullison after she had resigned.

The post office's Office of Inspector General states it obtained those money orders and found they were payable to Mayo from Mayo, and directly corresponded to the amount on Watson-Cullison's paychecks, minus money order fees.

According to the Office of Inspector General, Mayo during an interview with officials admitted he entered fraudulent work hours for Watson-Cullison after she resigned, and later claimed the checks.

Watson-Cullison denied any knowledge of the paychecks issued in her name, officials said.

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