



U.S. Department of Justice

Terrence Berg  
United States Attorney  
Eastern District of Michigan

**Suite 2001  
211 West Fort Street  
Detroit, Michigan 48226-3277**

For Immediate Release:  
Contact: Gina Balaya (313) 226-9758

June 26, 2009

---

Event: Guilty Plea

Defendant: Monica Conyers

DETROIT CITY COUNCIL PRESIDENT *PRO TEM* MONICA CONYERS  
PLEADS GUILTY TO CONSPIRACY TO COMMIT BRIBERY

---

Monica Conyers, 44, of Detroit, pleaded guilty today to one count of conspiracy to commit bribery before United States District Judge Avern Cohn, United States Attorney Terrence Berg announced today.

Berg was joined in the announcement by Andrew G. Arena, Special Agent In Charge of the Detroit Field Office of the Federal Bureau of Investigation and Maurice Aouate, Special Agent in Charge of the Detroit Field Office of the Internal Revenue Service.

According to records filed at the time of the plea, Ms. Conyers' admitted to misusing her office of Detroit City Council President *pro tem*, and her position as a trustee of the City of Detroit General Retirement System pension, for personal gain. Specifically, according to the records, Ms. Conyers and an aide received payments from persons who sought contracts, money and/or favorable treatment from the City Council or the pension fund. One example of this was in 2007, when Conyers admitted to receiving cash payments from Rayford Jackson

knowing that the payments were made to influence her to vote in favor of the Synagro contract.

The charge carries a maximum sentence of 5 years in federal prison and a fine of up to \$250,000.

United States Attorney Berg said, "Today Monica Conyers has pleaded guilty to conspiracy to commit bribery in connection with her roles as a City Council member and as a trustee of the Detroit pension board. This guilty plea is the result of the careful, thorough, and solid investigative work of the FBI, the IRS, and the case preparation by the federal prosecutors in my office. This conviction marks the conclusion of government's investigation of Ms. Conyers and the elected members of the Detroit City Council relating to the approval of the Synagro contract, though the investigation relating to the Synagro contract continues as it relates to others.

"I commend the remarkable dedication of the law enforcement agencies and the prosecutors who put this case together: the FBI, the IRS and members of the prosecution team, particularly AUSAs Lynn Helland, John Engstrom, Mike Bullotta, Mark Chutkow and Robert Cares who have spend untold hours working on this matter."

Special Agent Andrew G. Arena said, "Public corruption is a top investigative priority for the FBI. Individuals who take an oath of office should be held responsible for their actions. Anyone abusing their public position for personal gain, you know who you are so you should be looking over your shoulder, under your bed, in your closet because we are coming to get you."

The sentencing date will be set by the Court. Any sentence will be imposed pursuant to the federal sentencing guidelines and federal law, and will be determined by the Court.

Ms. Conyers was released on a personal recognizance bond.



U.S. Department of Justice

Terrence Berg  
United States Attorney  
Eastern District of Michigan

***Suite 2001  
211 West Fort Street  
Detroit, Michigan 48226-3277***

June 26, 2009

---

**STATEMENT OF UNITED STATES ATTORNEY  
TERRENCE BERG REGARDING GUILTY PLEA  
OF MONICA ANN CONYERS**

---

Good morning. Today Detroit City Council Member Monica Ann Conyers pleaded guilty in federal court to conspiring to commit bribery. According to Ms. Conyers' statements in her plea agreement and in open court, her conduct involved misuse of her positions as Detroit City Council President *pro tem* and as trustee of the City pension board for personal financial gain.

Today's guilty plea by Ms. Conyers marks the completion of the government's investigation of the role that elected members of the Detroit City Council had in approving the Synagro contract, though the investigation regarding the Synagro contract continues as to others.

In connection with that, because the result of this investigation is now public, I want to state that this investigation has not uncovered evidence sufficient to support charging any other elected members of the Detroit City Council with taking bribes or engaging in acts of corruption relating to the Synagro contract. I also want to make it equally clear that the evidence offered no suggestion that United States Representative John Conyers, Ms. Conyers' husband, had any knowledge or role in Ms. Conyers' illegal conduct, nor did the Congressman attempt to influence this investigation in any way.

This investigation took just under two years from the time we first discovered the possibility of misconduct by Ms. Conyers until her plea of guilty today. This may seem like a

long time to people who are not familiar with the complexity and difficulties of federal public corruption investigations, but the citizens of Detroit and of the whole Eastern District of Michigan deserved a thorough and fair investigation that would lead to a successful outcome, and I am very confident and proud to say that it is exactly what they have received. In fact, it is due to the thoroughness of this investigation, and the solid nature of the carefully marshaled evidence, that we have a high-level public figure pleading guilty to conspiracy to commit bribery today. As a long term resident of the City of Detroit, I appreciate and understand the importance of getting this matter resolved, and I am pleased that we have done so. We fully realize that there is a need to complete these kinds of investigations as quickly as possible. In our job, we have to balance that against the need to investigate effectively and fairly, and to reach the right conclusion. That is what we did in this case.

I would like to take a moment to acknowledge the remarkable dedication of the law enforcement agencies and the prosecutors who put this case together: the FBI, the IRS and members of the prosecution team, particularly AUSAs Lynn Helland, John Engstrom, Mike Bullotta, Mark Chutkow, Robert Cares and David Gardey who have spent untold hours working on this matter.

Finally, I want to leave no doubt that the Department of Justice and this office, the United States Attorney for the Eastern District of Michigan, will continue its vigorous efforts to aggressively but fairly and thoroughly investigate and prosecute all political corruption, regardless of where we find it and regardless of who it involves.