

# NEWS

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U.S. Attorney, District of New Jersey  
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Camden, New Jersey 08101

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***Ralph J. Marra, Jr., Acting U.S. Attorney***

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***More Information?*** Contact the Assistant U.S. Attorney or other contact listed below to see if more information is available.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## Former Pleasantville School Board President Sentenced to 30 Months in Prison for Extortion

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(More)

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CAMDEN – Former Pleasantville Board of Education president Jayson G. Adams was sentenced to 30 months in federal prison today for accepting bribes in return for his official assistance and for arranging bribes for other elected officials, Acting U.S. Attorney Ralph J. Marra, Jr. announced.

U.S. District Judge Jerome B. Simandle also ordered Jayson Adams, 28, to pay a \$12,500 fine and to serve three years of supervised release upon the completion of his prison term. Judge Simandle continued Adams's release on a \$200,000 bond pending his surrender to officials with the U.S. Bureau of Prisons on a date to be determined by prison authorities.

In sentencing Adams, Judge Simandle granted the government's motion for a downward departure under the advisory U.S. Sentencing Guidelines based upon Adams's substantial cooperation in the investigation, which assisted in the prosecution and conviction of other individuals. Judge Simandle noted that if Adams had not received the downward departure based upon his cooperation, he would have faced a guideline range of between 63 and 78 months in prison.

Adams was arrested on Sept. 6, 2007, along with ten other public officials and one private citizen, as a result of a public corruption investigation that progressed from southern to northern New Jersey. All of the 12 defendants have either pleaded guilty or were convicted at trial.

Adams pleaded guilty before Judge Simandle on Oct. 23, 2007, to a one-count criminal Information that charged him with attempted extortion under color of official right.

At his plea hearing, Adams admitted that between May 2006 and October 2006 he accepted numerous corrupt payments, totaling approximately \$62,200, in exchange for steering school board insurance and roofing contracts. Adams also admitted that he agreed to accept corrupt payments in the form of a share of profits generated as a result of insurance contracts obtained from the Pleasantville Board of Education. Additionally, Adams admitted arranging corrupt payments for other public officials in Pleasantville and elsewhere in New Jersey, in exchange for municipal insurance contracts.

As part of his guilty plea, Adams agreed to forfeit \$62,200, which represented the total amount of bribe payments received.

In determining the actual sentence, Judge Simandle consulted the advisory U.S. Sentencing Guidelines, which provide appropriate sentencing ranges that take into account the severity and characteristics of the offense, the defendant's criminal history, if any, and other factors, including acceptance of responsibility. The judge, however, has wide discretion and is not bound by those guidelines in determining a sentence.

Parole has been abolished in the federal system. Defendants who are given custodial terms must serve nearly all that time.

Marra credited Special Agents of the FBI, under the direction of Special Agent in Charge Weysan Dun, for the investigation of Adams and the other defendants. He also credited, for their assistance in the investigation, prosecutors and investigators with the Atlantic County Prosecutor's Office, under the direction of Prosecutor Theodore F.L. Housel.

The government is represented by Assistant U.S. Attorneys David Bocian and Christopher J. Gramiccioni.

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Defense Counsel:

Harold B. Shapiro, Esq. Vineland

Henry L. Warner, Esq. Atlantic City