

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
DISTRICT OF NEW JERSEY

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA : Hon.
v. : Crim. No. 07-
ELISA GRIFFIN : 18 U.S.C. §§ 666(a)(1)(B) and 2

INFORMATION

The defendant having waived in open court prosecution by Indictment, the United States Attorney for the District of New Jersey charges:

Soliciting, Demanding, Accepting and Agreeing to Accept Cash Payments in Exchange for Official Action and Influence

1. At all times relevant to this Information:

(A) Defendant ELISA GRIFFIN was employed by the City of Paterson Section 8 Program in Paterson, New Jersey. As an employee of the Section 8 Program, defendant GRIFFIN helped to identify eligible residential properties for program participants receiving Section 8 housing subsidies.

(B) There was a cooperating witness (the "C.W.") who was known in Paterson to be engaged in the real estate business, specifically, helping buyers to purchase residential properties in Paterson. The C.W. managed these properties for the buyers by renting them to recipients of Section 8 housing benefits. The C.W. retained the rent payments for the properties, which exceeded \$5,000 per year.

(C) The City of Paterson was a local government that received benefits in excess of \$10,000 under a federal program involving federal assistance during the relevant one-year period.

2. On or about January 20, 2006, defendant ELISA GRIFFIN met with the C.W. in Paterson, New Jersey. During the meeting, the C.W. explained to defendant GRIFFIN that the C.W. had new apartments that the C.W. wanted to rent to Section 8 tenants and that the C.W. wanted "no headaches." The C.W. further stated to defendant GRIFFIN, in substance and in part, that the C.W. wanted to re-establish the "relationship" between them that had existed in the past. Defendant GRIFFIN stated that she was "cautious" because she was aware that the C.W. previously had been investigated by the Federal Bureau of Investigation. Defendant GRIFFIN further indicated to the C.W. that the C.W. still owed her approximately \$1,900, the equivalent of one month's rent for one of the C.W.'s apartments that defendant GRIFFIN previously had rented to a Section 8 tenant. Defendant GRIFFIN and the C.W. discussed whether, on a going-forward basis, defendant GRIFFIN would continue to be paid on a per-apartment basis or whether defendant GRIFFIN would receive a regular payment from the C.W. every two weeks. Defendant GRIFFIN stated, in substance and in part, that she could "use all the money [she] can get" and that she wanted to be paid both bi-weekly and per

apartment. Defendant GRIFFIN set the amount of the bi-weekly payment at \$200 and stated, in substance and in part, that this would be sufficient to "keep the paperwork moving."

3. On or about January 25, 2006, defendant ELISA GRIFFIN met with the C.W. in Paterson. At the meeting, defendant GRIFFIN informed the C.W. that the C.W. owed her \$1,933 for the rental of the apartment discussed during defendant GRIFFIN and the C.W.'s prior meeting. Defendant GRIFFIN then accepted \$1,900 in cash from the C.W. Defendant GRIFFIN inquired whether the C.W. had additional apartments to rent, as she knew of at least three other families who were currently looking for housing.

4. In or about January 2006, in Passaic County, in the District of New Jersey, and elsewhere, defendant

ELISA GRIFFIN

knowingly and willfully did corruptly solicit and demand for the benefit of herself, and accept and agree to accept cash payments from another, intending to be influenced and rewarded in connection with a business, transaction, and series of transactions of a local government, involving a thing of value of \$5,000 and more.

In violation of Title 18, United States Code, Sections 666(a)(1)(B) and 2.

CHRISTOPHER J. CHRISTIE
UNITED STATES ATTORNEY