

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
DISTRICT OF NEW JERSEY

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA : Hon.
v. : Crim. No. 07-
YOLANDA LANE : 18 U.S.C. §§ 1951(a) and 2

INFORMATION

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

Attempted Extortion Under Color of Official Right

1. At all times relevant to this information:

(A) Defendant YOLANDA LANE was employed as a lead paint inspector by the City of Paterson Environmental Health Department in Paterson, New Jersey. As a lead paint inspector, the duties of defendant LANE included the inspection of residential properties offered for lease to determine the presence of lead paint and the issuance of required certificates of inspections.

(B) There was a cooperating witness ("C.W.") who was engaged in the real estate business, specifically, assisting buyers inside and outside New Jersey to purchase various residential properties in Paterson as "investments" for the buyers. In order to purchase the properties, the C.W. and others assisted the buyers to apply for loans from mortgage lenders located both inside and outside New Jersey. The C.W. then "managed" these properties for the buyers by renting them to

recipients of Section 8 housing benefits.

2. From in or about January 2006 to in or about March 2006, defendant YOLANDA LANE solicited and accepted corrupt payments from the C.W. in exchange for the performance of her official duties as a lead paint inspector. Defendant LANE accepted cash and other payments from the C.W. for, among other things, providing prompt inspections of the properties so that the C.W. could quickly obtain the necessary approvals to lease the apartments under the C.W.'s control to residential tenants.

3. On or about January 18, 2006, defendant YOLANDA LANE met with the C.W. in Paterson, New Jersey. At the meeting, defendant LANE solicited and demanded from the C.W. payment of \$150 per apartment in exchange for performing lead paint inspections of the these properties.

4. On or about January 25, 2006, defendant YOLANDA LANE met with the C.W. in Paterson and accepted a cash payment of \$300 from the C.W., representing her payment for inspecting two of the apartments under the C.W.'s control.

5. On or about February 3, 2006, defendant YOLANDA LANE met with the C.W. in Paterson. At the meeting, the C.W. informed defendant LANE, in substance and in part, that the C.W. was about to come into possession of some old houses that were likely to contain lead paint, and asked if defendant LANE could arrange it so that the C.W. could lease the properties first and fix the

lead problems later. Defendant LANE indicated that it was possible, but that she would have to see the properties first.

6. On or about May 2, 2006, defendant YOLANDA LANE met with the C.W. in Paterson at a Housing and Urban Development-owned property that the C.W. represented to defendant LANE was one of the properties that the C.W. sought to lease to tenants. The C.W. and defendant LANE discussed whether LANE would be willing to state that there was no lead in the house when there was, in fact, lead present. Defendant LANE stated, in substance and in part, that she would help the C.W. if she could, but informed the C.W. that she had to be careful because another inspector in her department was currently under scrutiny.

The Charge

7. From in or about January 2006 to in or about May 2006, in Passaic County, in the District of New Jersey, and elsewhere, defendant

YOLANDA LANE

did knowingly and willfully attempt to obstruct, delay and affect interstate commerce by extortion under color of official right by demanding, obtaining and agreeing to obtain corrupt payments that were paid by the C.W. with consent.

In violation of Title 18, United States Code, Sections
1951(a) and 2.

CHRISTOPHER J. CHRISTIE
UNITED STATES ATTORNEY