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Christopher J. Christie, U.S. Attorney

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

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Assistant U.S. Attorney: HOPE S. OLDS 973-645-2764 hadl0802.rel FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE Aug. 2, 2007

Landscaper Admits Bribing Former Brick Township Official

(More)

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NEWARK – A landscape contractor based in Brielle and Brick Township pleaded guilty today to a one-count Information charging him with bribing the former Public Works Director of Brick Township in exchange for no-bid snow plowing work, U.S. Attorney Christopher J. Christie announced.

The defendant, Lance Hadley, 38, of Brick Township, admitted making two corrupt payments totaling \$4,000 to the former Director of Public Works in exchange for the public official's exercise of official action in favor of his business for past and future services for Brick Township. The payments were made with the intent to influence and reward the public official for his assistance in obtaining emergency snow-plowing work from Brick Township.

Hadley admitted before U.S. District Judge Katharine S. Hayden that he paid the public official with two separate checks, each in the amount of \$2,000. Hadley and the public official conspired to disguise the corrupt payments by making false and fraudulent notations in the memo sections to reflect a "boat purchase" and a "loader rental."

As a result of the corrupt payments, Hadley's company received, and the former director authorized, emergency no-bid snow-plowing contracts in excess of \$40,000 between 2001 and 2003.

The bribery charge to which Hadley pleaded guilty carries a maximum statutory penalty of 10 years in prison and a \$250,000 fine.

Judge Hayden scheduled sentencing for Hadley for Nov. 26. Hadley remains free on \$10,000 bond.

Christie credited Special Agents of the FBI's Red Bank Resident Agency, under the direction of Special Agent in Charge Weysan Dun, in Newark; and detectives from Brick Police Department, under the direction of Police Chief Ron Dougard; and the Ocean County Prosecutor's Office, under the direction of Prosecutor Marlene Lynch Ford, with the investigation resulting in today's guilty plea. Christie also credited Assistant U.S. Attorney Hope S. Olds of the Office's Special Prosecutions Division, who is prosecuting the case.

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Defense Counsel: Raymond Dademo, Esq., Brick Township