

NEWS

United States Department of Justice
U.S. Attorney, District of New Jersey
970 Broad Street, Seventh Floor
Newark, New Jersey 07102



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.

News on the Internet: News Releases and related documents are posted at our website.
Go to: <http://www.usdoj.gov/usao/nj/press/index.html>

Contact:
Michael Drewniak
973-645-2888

lane0627.rel
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
June 27, 2007

Paterson Lead Paint Inspector Admits Taking Bribes

(More)

Public Affairs Office
Michael Drewniak, PAO

973-645-2888

<http://www.usdoj.gov/usao/nj/press/index.html>

NEWARK – A lead paint inspector for the City of Paterson pleaded guilty today to a one-

count Information charging her with accepting bribes in exchange for exercising official action, U.S. Attorney Christopher J. Christie announced.

Yolanda Lane, 38, of Paterson, was a lead paint inspector for the City of Paterson Environmental Health Department when she took \$300 in cash from a local property manager who was in fact cooperating with the FBI and the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development Office of Inspector General.

Lane was initially arrested and charged in March when federal agents arrested 14 current and former Paterson and Passaic public employees, most of them associated with the Paterson Public Housing Authority, on corruption charges.

Lane admitted before U.S. District Judge Jose L. Linares that she met with the property manager on multiple occasions and negotiated a fee of \$150 per apartment in exchange for performing prompt lead paint inspections. After this arrangement was made, Lane accepted \$300 in cash for the inspection of two apartments. Lane subsequently agreed to visit properties that she was informed would contain lead with the possibility of arranging it so that the manager could lease the properties first and fix the lead paint issues later.

The charge to which Lane pleaded guilty today, attempting to extort money under color of official right, carries a maximum statutory penalty of 20 years in prison and a \$250,000 fine.

Judge Linares scheduled sentencing for Oct. 10. She remains free on \$25,000 bond until sentencing.

Christie credited Special Agents of the FBI's Garret Mountain Resident Agency in West Paterson, under the direction of Acting Special Agent in Charge Pedro Ruiz, and Special Agents from HUD OIG, under the direction of Special Agent in Charge Rene Febles, with the investigation that resulted in today's charges.

Christie also credited Assistant U.S. Attorneys Hope Olds of the Office's Special Prosecutions Division, who are prosecuting this case.

-end-

Defense Counsel: Dawn L. Jackson, Esq., Newark