

# Department of Justice

Acting United States Attorney Kathleen Mehlretter  
Western District of New York

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## **MONROE COUNTY EMPLOYEE ROBERT MORONE IS CHARGED WITH DEFRAUDING THE COUNTY**

ROCHESTER, N.Y.-- Acting United States Attorney Kathleen M. Mehlretter and Monroe County District Attorney Michael Green announced that Robert Morone, age 53, of 102 Queensland Drive, Gates, New York, a former employee with the County of Monroe, New York, is expected to be arrested later today in connection with a federal criminal complaint filed today charging him with defrauding the County. Specifically, Morone is charged with federal mail fraud and honest services fraud which carries a maximum possible sentence of 20 years imprisonment.

Assistant U.S. Attorney Richard A. Resnick, who is handling the case, stated that Morone was employed by the County as a supervisor at the Department of Environmental Services ("DES"). His duties included being in charge of the County's building maintenance projects.

Robutrad Corporation ("Robutrad") was a corporation set-up to employ union members for the purpose of providing skilled labor to the County. The County and Robutrad had entered into a contract wherein Robutrad agreed to provide professional labor services on an ongoing basis to the County. During the time period at issue, Morone was the County employee who oversaw the Robutrad workers who were assigned to the DES at the maintenance and construction unit. Morone was in charge of providing these workers with County work assignments and supervising their daily activities while working for the County, and assuring time records were accurately provided.

Morone has been charged with, from at least 2005 to November 2008, executing a scheme to defraud the County of property and his honest services by causing the County to pay the Robutrad workers routinely for days or hours they did not actually provide services to the County either through doing non-County work or by receiving days-off while still being paid as if they had rendered services to the

County. Morone executed this scheme by falsifying the workers' time records which falsely represented that the workers had worked on specific County projects when in fact they had not.

The criminal complaint alleges that Morone caused the County improperly to pay the Robutrad workers for days off and vacations to which they were not entitled, as a reward for the political activities Morone required the workers to perform as a condition of their employment. Specifically, it is alleged that Morone required the Robutrad workers to perform services for the Monroe County Republican Party, the Town of Gates Republican Party, and their candidates, at significant fund raising and campaign events and activities under the guise that the workers were "volunteers". If the Robutrad workers provided such services during normal working hours, it is alleged that Morone would falsify the workers' time cards to make it appear that the workers had been working on various County projects. If the Robutrad workers had provided political services on a weekend, for example, walking in a parade for a political candidate, it is alleged that Morone would grant and award the Robutrad workers with paid days off in the future. Consequently, the complaint alleges that Morone caused the County improperly to pay the Robutrad workers for participating in political events and activities. It is further alleged that on many occasions, when Morone gave the Robutrad workers paid days off for working at political events and activities, he required the workers to kick back up to \$25 per day from the money the workers received from the County as a kickback for the paid day off.

It is further alleged that Morone also caused the County to pay the workers when the workers were directed by Morone to provide services for non-County projects. These non-county projects included services performed for private individuals, Morone himself, and family members of Morone. It is alleged that Morone would financially benefit when he directed the Robutrad workers to perform non-County services for private individuals by keeping for his own personal use the money he received from the private individuals for the services performed by the Robutrad workers. On other occasions, when the Robutrad works were paid directly by the private individuals, Morone would require the workers to pay him a kickback from such payment. It is further alleged that Morone on many occasions used county bought materials for the non-County projects.

It is further alleged that Morone also required the Robutrad workers to make \$300 to \$400 political donations during the campaign season. The Robutrad workers considered these donations as a requirement to continue to receive desirable work from the County. In some case, the Robutrad workers were actually repaid by the County for the political donations Morone required them to make. Specifically, to repay the amounts "donated" by the workers, it is alleged that Morone caused the County to pay Robutrad and ultimately these workers for hours they did not actually work for the County. For example, one Robutrad worker has advised that

Morone “would pad the workers paychecks with overtime” to make up for the political donations he