



**U.S. Department of Justice**

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**NEWS RELEASE**

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**Former Tulsa Public Works Official Pleads Guilty to Bribery Charge**

United States Attorney David E. O'Meilia announced that a former City of Tulsa official pled guilty today in federal court in Tulsa to public corruption charges.

Larry Wayne Baker, age 53, formerly the Design Engineering Manager for the Public Works Department pled guilty to the charge of Bribery. Baker admitted that he paid another city employee approximately \$9,000 between November 2006 and November 2007 to influence his vote in awarding an inspection contract. The specific contract at issue was the widening of 36<sup>th</sup> Street North from the Osage County line to North Cincinnati Avenue. Baker was originally charged in a Grand Jury indictment unsealed last January for his participation in a bribery scheme involving an approximately \$200,000 Tulsa public works project.

Sentencing in the case is set for July 13, 2009, after the completion of a pre-sentence investigation report by the U.S. Probation Office. Baker faces a prison sentence of up to 10 years and a fine of \$250,000. In his plea agreement with the government, Baker is required to pay \$134,000 in restitution and forfeiture penalties.

United States Attorney O'Meilia stated, "Mr. Baker's plea of guilty in this case to bribing a City of Tulsa Public Works Department employee and other recent successful federal public corruption prosecutions in the Northern District reflect the continuing commitment of my office and the federal investigative agencies to root out, expose and bring to justice corrupt public servants. Our citizens and communities expect and deserve to be served by honest public officials and we will continue to hold them to the highest standards of conduct."

U.S. District Judge Terrence Kern is presiding in the case. Assistant U.S. Attorneys Clinton J. Johnson and Joseph F. Wilson are handling the matter for the government. The investigation was undertaken by the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the Internal Revenue Service Criminal Investigation Division.