

NEWS

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

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Maplewood Man Charged with Money Laundering;
Case Stems from “Operation Bid Rig” Corruption Probe

(More)

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NEWARK – A former employee of the New Jersey Turnpike Authority was arrested today for allegedly engaging in money laundering transactions involving what he believed to be the proceeds of loansharking, U.S. Attorney Christopher J. Christie announced.

A one-count Complaint charges Leroy Robinson, 51, of Maplewood, with engaging in a series of transactions totaling \$120,000 from April 2004 through February 2005. Robinson met with a confidential witness who was cooperating with the FBI and two undercover agents on numerous occasions during that period to effectuate transactions which he believed involved the proceeds of loansharking and other illegal activities.

Robinson was arrested early this morning at his home by Special Agents of the FBI. He made an initial appearance today before U.S. Magistrate Judge Claire C. Cecchi, who set bail at \$150,000 secured by equity in Robinson's home.

During the time period discussed in the Complaint, Robinson was employed by the Turnpike Authority.

The Complaint charges that in exchange for large sums of cash, Robinson provided checks from his business back to the agents in lesser amounts. Robinson thereby earned a 10 percent commission on the money laundering transactions in which he engaged.

The arrest of Robinson represents the most recent charge to stem from Operation Bid Rig, the FBI undercover operation which has resulted in the arrest and conviction of more than 40 individuals, including approximately 20 public officials from Monmouth and Ocean Counties, including the former mayors of Asbury Park, Brick Township, Hazlet, Keyport, Ocean Township and West Long Branch.

The money laundering charge with which Robinson is charged carries a maximum statutory prison sentence of 20 years and a fine of \$500,000 or more.

The Complaint is merely an accusation, and the defendant is presumed innocent unless and until proven guilty beyond a reasonable doubt in a court of law.

Christie credited Special Agents of the FBI's Red Bank Resident Agency, under the direction of Special Agent in Charge Weysan Dun, with the investigation that resulted in today's charges.

The case is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Mark McCarren of the Special Prosecutions Division.

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Defense Counsel: John McDonald, Esq. Somerset