

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
DISTRICT OF NEW JERSEY**

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA :
 :
 v. : Crim. No. 12-
 :
 JOHN T. KENNEL : 18 U.S.C. §§ 1951(a) & (b)(2) & § 2
 a/k/a "Jack Kennell" :

INFORMATION

The defendant having waived in open court prosecution by Indictment, the United States Attorney for the District of New Jersey charges:

1. At all times relevant to this Information:

A. Defendant JOHN T. KENNEL, a/k/a "Jack Kennell," ("defendant KENNEL") was employed by the Housing Authority of the Township of North Bergen in North Bergen, New Jersey ("NBHA") as the Director of Operations for the NBHA. In that capacity, defendant KENNEL was responsible for, among other things, supervising the maintenance and cleaning of NBHA buildings and grounds.

B. There was a company based in Rutherford, New Jersey that provided janitorial, repair, and grounds maintenance, as well as other services to municipal and corporate entities in New Jersey ("Company 1"). During the relevant period, Company 1 was contracted by the NBHA to provide repair and grounds maintenance, as well as other services at facilities and grounds controlled by the NBHA. For these services, the NBHA paid Company 1 approximately \$250,000 to \$270,000 per year for repair maintenance and approximately \$150,000 to \$180,000 per year for grounds maintenance. Pursuant to the agreements between the NBHA and Company 1, Company 1 provided teams of workers that reported (i) daily to the

NBHA, and (ii) to defendant KENNELL, including six employees of Company 1 (collectively, "Individuals 1 to 6").

C. In his position as the Director of Operations, defendant KENNELL was authorized to both hire and terminate employees of Company 1 who worked at the NBHA. Defendant KENNELL also was responsible for tracking the hours worked by employees of Company 1 and then reporting those hours to Company 1 on time and attendance reports that were submitted to Company 1 via facsimile following each work week. On the basis of those reports, which were often signed by defendant KENNELL, Company 1 paid a weekly salary to its employees who worked at the NBHA.

2. At times from in or about February 2008 to in or about May 2012, in Hudson County, New Jersey, defendant KENNELL used his position at the NBHA to extort Individuals 1 to 6 in connection with his employment as the Director of Operations for the NBHA, as follows:

A. Defendant KENNELL used his position at the NBHA to regularly extort Individuals 1 to 6 out of a portion of their weekly paychecks. Defendant KENNELL supervised these employees of Company 1 working at the NBHA and had the authority to terminate their employment at the NBHA. Using his position of authority, defendant KENNELL extorted cash payments from each of these individuals in amounts ranging from approximately \$10 to \$20 after those individuals received their weekly paychecks from Company 1.

B. Defendant KENNELL extorted Individuals 1, 2, and 3 in amounts ranging from approximately \$100 to \$400 for agreeing to authorize and otherwise facilitating additional paid vacation days. Using his position at the NBHA, defendant KENNELL submitted and caused to be submitted to Company 1 time and attendance reports that falsely indicated that these employees of Company 1 were present and working at the NBHA during periods when they were not, including occasions when Individuals 1, 2, and 3 were traveling outside of the United States. In exchange for defendant KENNELL's official action and assistance in submitting false

and fraudulent time and attendance reports to Company 1 and otherwise securing additional paid vacation for the employees, defendant KENNELL accepted and agreed to accept cash payments from Individuals 1, 2, and 3.

C. Defendant KENNELL used his position at the NBHA to extort cash payments from Individual 4, an undocumented individual and an employee of Company 1, by allowing Individual 4 to use different aliases to maintain employment with Company 1 at the NBHA. Between in or about January 2008 to in or about April 2012, defendant KENNELL allowed Individual 4 to change the alias that Individual 4 used for employment purposes on two occasions in exchange for two cash payments of approximately \$50 to \$100 following each alias change.

3. From in or about February 2008 to in or about May 2012, in Hudson County, in the District of New Jersey, and elsewhere, defendant

JOHN T. KENNELL,
a/k/a "Jack Kennell,"

did knowingly and willfully obstruct, delay, and affect interstate and foreign commerce by extortion (1) under color of official right, and (2) induced by fear of economic harm, by obtaining and agreeing to obtain payments that were paid by Individuals 1 to 6, with their consent.

In violation of Title 18, United States Code, Sections 1951(a) and (b)(2) and Section 2.


PAUL J. FISHMAN
UNITED STATES ATTORNEY

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& § 2

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