

NEWS

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Head of Newark Sanitation Division Gets 45 Months in Prison for Accepting \$24,000 in Corrupt Payments

(More)

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NEWARK – The former manager of the Newark Division of Sanitation was sentenced today to 45 months in prison for accepting \$24,000 in corrupt payments from an East Newark waste-hauling company in exchange for exercising his influence in favor of the company, U.S. Attorney Christopher J. Christie announced.

U.S. District Judge Joseph E. Irenas also ordered Anthony Lukowiak, 43, of Belleville to make \$97,231 in restitution to the Division of Sanitation. Judge Irenas ordered Lukowiak to turn himself in to the federal Bureau of Prisons by Nov. 30 to begin serving the prison sentence.

Lukowiak pleaded guilty before Judge Irenas on April 12. Lukowiak admitted that he accepted cash payments totaling about \$24,000 between January and December 2005, during a time when the waste-hauling company had contracts with Newark.

Lukowiak pleaded guilty to a one-count Information charging him with accepting corrupt payments.

Lukowiak, who supervised the entire Newark Sanitation Division and had supervisory responsibility for more than 250 employees, told Judge Irenas that his responsibilities included, among other things, the supervision and management of the collection of garbage for the City of Newark. Lukowiak admitted that he accepted the cash bribes in exchange for exercising official action, influence and decision-making authority in favor of the waste-hauling contractor.

Christie credited Special Agents of the FBI, under the direction of Special Agent in Charge Leslie Wiser, Jr., with the investigation leading to today's guilty plea.

The case is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorneys Jeffrey S. Chiesa and John Fietkiewicz of the U.S. Attorney's Office Special Prosecutions Division in Newark.

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Defense Counsel: Robert G. Stahl, Esq., Westfield