

NEWS

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Pleasantville Man Indicted on Corruption Charges

(More)

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TRENTON – A Pleasantville man was indicted today for conspiring with former Pleasantville Board of Education member Maurice “Pete” Callaway to obtain corrupt payments from a roofing company in exchange for Callaway’s assistance in obtaining roofing work for the business from the Pleasantville Board of Education, U.S. Attorney Christopher J. Christie announced.

The three-count Indictment charges that Louis Servon Mister, 57, conspired with Callaway to obtain two corrupt payments of \$1,500 each from a roofing company in exchange for Callaway’s assistance in obtaining contracts from the Pleasantville Board of Education. The Indictment also charges that Mister aided and abetted Callaway by personally accepting the corrupt payments from a cooperating witness on behalf of Callaway.

Callaway pleaded guilty before U.S. District Judge Jerome B. Simandle to attempted extortion under color of official right on Nov. 1, 2007, and is scheduled to be sentenced on Feb. 15. At his plea hearing, Callaway admitted that on June 5, 2006, he directed Mister to accept the two separate corrupt cash payments on Callaway’s behalf. Callaway admitted that the corrupt payments were paid to him, through Mister.

Mister will be arraigned on the Indictment in the coming weeks once the case is assigned to a U.S. District Court Judge.

Count One of the Indictment charges conspiracy to commit extortion under color of official right, which carries a statutory maximum penalty of 20 years in prison and a fine of \$250,000. Count Two charges aiding and abetting the attempted obstruction of commerce by extortion under color of official right, which carries a maximum penalty of 20 years in prison and a fine of \$250,000. Count Three, which charges accepting and agreeing to accept a bribe, carries a statutory maximum penalty of 10 years in prison and a fine of \$250,000.

In determining an actual sentence, the judge to whom the case is assigned would, upon a conviction, consult the advisory U.S. Sentencing Guidelines, which provide appropriate sentencing ranges that take into account the severity and characteristics of the offense, the defendant’s criminal history, if any, and other factors. The judge, however, is not bound by those guidelines in determining a sentence. Parole has been abolished in the federal system. Defendants who are given custodial terms must serve nearly all that time.

Despite indictment, the defendant is presumed innocent unless proven guilty beyond a reasonable doubt.

Christie credited Special Agents of the FBI, under the direction of Special Agent in Charge Weysan Dun, for the investigation. He also credited prosecutors and investigators with the Atlantic County Prosecutor’s Office, under the direction of Prosecutor Theodore

F.L. Housel, for their assistance in the investigation .

The government is represented by Assistant U.S. Attorneys Christopher J. Gramiccioni and David A. Bocian.

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Defense Counsel: Lisa Van Hoeck, Esq., Asst. Federal Public Defender