



*United States Attorney
Southern District of New York*

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
MARCH 19, 2008**

**CONTACT: U.S. ATTORNEY'S OFFICE
HERBERT HADAD, YUSILL SCRIBNER,
REBEKAH CARMICHAEL
PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICE
(914) 993-1900, (212) 637-2600**

**FBI
JAMES M. MARGOLIN
(212) 384-2720**

**TWO CHARGED BY U.S. IN SCHEME TO DEFRAUD
CITY OF MOUNT VERNON OF MORE THAN \$1 MILLION**

MICHAEL J. GARCIA, the United States Attorney for the Southern District of New York, and MARK J. MERSHON, Assistant Director-in-Charge of the New York Office of the Federal Bureau of Investigation ("FBI"), announced today the unsealing of an Indictment charging two individuals affiliated with a Westchester carting company with mail fraud and conspiracy for overbilling Mount Vernon by at least an estimated \$1.25 million for the removal of construction debris and tree waste from Mount Vernon city property.

In approximately November 2001, A & D Carting obtained a contract with the City of Mount Vernon to remove waste from a City storage yard at a price of \$397 per 30-cubic-yard container removed. To bill Mount Vernon under the contract, A & D Carting was required to submit invoices to Mount Vernon identifying how many 30-cubic-yard containers were removed on particular dates, together with a pre-printed receipt form (which is commonly referred to as a "ticket") for the removal of each container. The tickets were supposed to be signed by a Mount Vernon employee at the yard at the time each container was carted away. From 2002 through March 2006, ALBERTO TRANQUILLO III, an owner and operator of A & D carting, and MICHAEL PIZZOLONGO, who helped manage A & D Carting's business, defrauded the City of Mount Vernon by submitting tickets and invoices claiming that far more waste had been removed from the yard than had actually been removed, it was charged.

TRANQUILLO and PIZZOLONGO allegedly continued the scheme even after the Westchester Solid Waste Commission denied TRANQUILLO's companies a carting license. After that denial, A &

D Carting was sold to United Waste Services, but even after this sale, which took place in December, 2003, TRANQUILLO's companies continued to use trucks they owned to service the Mount Vernon contract, and TRANQUILLO AND PIZZOLONGO continued to overbill Mount Vernon by submitting tickets and invoices vastly overstating the amount of waste removed.

The Indictment charges that, through this scheme, TRANQUILLO and PIZZOLONGO caused more than \$1.25 million in losses to the City of Mount Vernon. Indeed, in 2002 - the first full year of the contract between A & D Carting and Mount Vernon - Mount Vernon paid companies controlled by TRANQUILLO \$385,000, or approximately four times what Mount Vernon had paid for the removal of such waste the previous year. Mount Vernon's payouts under the contract rose each subsequent year, peaking at approximately \$856,000 in 2005. In that same year, records reflect that A & D Carting paid a dump to dispose of only 3,270 cubic yards of tree waste even though A & D claimed in its bills to Mount Vernon that it had collected 24,630 cubic yards of such waste from Mount Vernon.

PIZZOLONGO, of Scarsdale, New York, was arrested this morning and is expected to be arraigned in White Plains federal court later today. TRANQUILLO is currently incarcerated and is expected to be arraigned within the next several weeks.

Mr. GARCIA praised the investigative work of the FBI and stated that the investigation is ongoing.

Assistant United States Attorney ARLO DEVLIN-BROWN is in charge of the prosecution.

The charges contained in the Indictment are merely accusations, and the defendants are presumed innocent unless and until proven guilty.

08-069

###