



*United States Attorney
Southern District of New York*

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**FORMER CARPENTERS UNION SHOP STEWARD SENTENCED TO
27 MONTHS FOR ACCEPTING BRIBES FROM CONTRACTOR
AT KINGS COUNTY HOSPITAL**

MICHAEL J. GARCIA, the United States Attorney for the Southern District of New York, announced that DAVID VELTRI, a Carpenters Union shop steward, was sentenced today to 27 months in prison for accepting bribes from a contractor at a union jobsite in Brooklyn. VELTRI pleaded guilty to the offense on June 15, 2007, and was sentenced today by United States District Judge WILLIAM H. PAULEY III.

According to the documents filed in Manhattan federal court and statements made at VELTRI's sentencing proceeding:

DAVID VELTRI was a shop steward for the District Council of New York City and Vicinity of the United Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners (the "Carpenters Union"), assigned to a construction jobsite at the Kings County Hospital in Brooklyn. VELTRI was serving in this capacity when, from January through May 2004, he accepted at least \$8,000 in cash bribes from the owners of Tri-Built Construction Inc. -- a construction contractor doing work at the site -- in return for submitting false shop steward reports that under-reported carpenters' hours to the union. VELTRI's conduct helped the contractor defraud the union benefit funds out of at least \$70,000 in benefits contributions it should have paid.

In addition to the term of imprisonment, Judge PAULEY ordered VELTRI to serve a term of 3 years supervised release and pay a fine of \$8,000. VELTRI was also ordered to pay \$70,000 in restitution to the union benefit fund.

The owners of Tri-Built, PATRICK NOEL McCAUL and JAMES DERMOT MCGONNELL, were criminally charged in a separate

Indictment in December 2006. As alleged in that Indictment, by bribing shop stewards like VELTRI to submit fake reports, Tri-Built's owners avoided the detection of a long-running scheme to defraud the union and its benefit funds by paying union workers on its jobs cash, at a non-union rate, without the workers receiving any benefits or tax withholdings. The charges against McCAUL and McGONNELL remain pending, are merely accusations, and the defendants are presumed innocent unless and until proven guilty.

Mr. GARCIA thanked the U.S. Department of Labor for its work in this investigation.

Assistant United States Attorney LISA ZORNBERG is in charge of the prosecution.

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