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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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**RETIRED MOUNT VERNON OFFICIAL SENTENCED TO FIVE YEARS  
FOR ACCEPTING BRIBES FROM WASTE HAULERS WHO DEFRAUDED  
MOUNT VERNON OF \$1.25 MILLION**

MICHAEL J. GARCIA, the United States Attorney for the Southern District of New York, announced that JAMES CASTALDO was sentenced today in White Plains federal court by United States District Judge KENNETH M. KARAS to five years in prison. The sentencing follows CASTALDO's guilty plea on July 16, 2008 to charges that he took bribes from waste haulers and that he conspired with them to defraud the City of Mount Vernon. According to the Information and criminal Complaint against CASTALDO, the Indictment unsealed on March 19, 2008, against waste haulers involved in the scheme, and statements made in court:

CASTALDO accepted bribes from a waste hauler, while employed as a high-ranking supervisor for the City of Mount Vernon Department of Public Works ("DPW"), in return for allowing the haulers to overbill the City of Mount Vernon by at least \$1.25 million for debris removed from a municipal storage yard. A Westchester waste-hauling company, A & D Carting ("A & D"), obtained a contract with the City of Mount Vernon in November 2001 to remove waste from a City storage yard at a price of \$397 per 30-cubic-yard container removed. To bill the City of Mount Vernon under the contract, A & D was required to submit invoices 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 City of Mount Vernon employee at the yard at the time each container was carted away. From 2002 through March 2006, ALBERT TRANQUILLO III, who controlled and operated A & D, defrauded the City of Mount Vernon by submitting tickets and invoices claiming that far more waste had been carted away from the yard than had actually been removed.

CASTALDO, who retired in 2005, accepted bribes from A & D as part of the scheme to overbill the City of Mount Vernon. When A & D received checks from Mount Vernon, CASTALDO would call

A & D and request a meeting with TRANQUILLO or his relative. CASTALDO paid a portion of the bribes he received to a DPW employee who worked at the Mount Vernon storage yard, who agreed to initial as many fraudulent tickets as A & D drivers gave to him. These extra tickets were then mailed to the City of Mount Vernon together with invoices which significantly overstated the amount of waste removed. As a result, the City of Mount Vernon was defrauded of at least \$1.25 million.

In imposing sentence, Judge KARAS called the offense an abuse of the public's trust and stated that the sentence was needed to deter public officials from engaging in such conduct. In addition to the prison term, Judge KARAS ordered CASTALDO to pay \$1.25 million in restitution to the City of Mount Vernon.

Mr. GARCIA praised the investigative work of the Federal Bureau of Investigation in this case.

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

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

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