



*United States Attorney  
Southern District of New York*

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**CARTING COMPANY OPERATOR FACES FEDERAL CHARGES  
OF BRIBING MOUNT VERNON OFFICIAL**

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 the filing yesterday of a Superseding Indictment charging ALBERT TRANQUILLO III with bribing the Supervisor of the Mount Vernon Department of Public Works to allow a carting company TRANQUILLO and a relative operated to overbill the City of Mount Vernon for the removal of waste from Mount Vernon city property. Mount Vernon is alleged to have lost at least \$1.25 million through the scheme.

TRANQUILLO and another individual were originally indicted in March of this year on mail fraud and conspiracy charges. JAMES CASTALDO, the former Supervisor of the Mount Vernon Department of Public Works ("DPW"), pled guilty in July to conspiracy to commit mail fraud and accepting bribes from TRANQUILLO and a relative. He is scheduled to be sentenced on October 23, 2008.

According to the Superseding Indictment:

A & D Carting obtained a contract with the City of Mount Vernon in approximately November 2001 to remove construction debris and tree waste from a City storage yard at a rate of \$397 per 30-cubic-yard container. The contract required A & D Carting's invoices to the City to be accompanied by a "ticket" for each 30-yard container removed. The tickets were supposed to be signed by a Mount Vernon employee at the yard at the time each container was carted away. However, from 2002 through March 2006, TRANQUILLO caused A & D carting to submit tickets and invoices

claiming that far more waste had been removed than was actually the case. The scheme succeeded because TRANQUILLO and his relative made payments to the Supervisor of the Mount Vernon Department of Public Works, a position held by JAMES CASTALDO until he retired in 2005. (In his own guilty plea, CASTALDO admitted to participating in the scheme to defraud the City of Mount Vernon and to receiving bribes from TRANQUILLO.) The scheme resulted in more than \$1.25 million in losses to the City of Mount Vernon.

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 Superseding Indictment are merely accusations, and the defendant is presumed innocent unless and until proven guilty.

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