



U.S. Department of Justice

United States Attorney

Eastern District of Pennsylvania

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

July 30, 2007

**PHILADELPHIA TAX ASSESSOR AND DEVELOPER
CHARGED WITH CORRUPTION**

PHILADELPHIA – United States Attorney Pat Meehan today announced the filing of a criminal information¹ against James F. Lynch, a tax assessor for the Board of Revision of Taxes in Philadelphia, and James F. Campenella, a real estate developer and owner of Campenella Construction, Inc. According to the information, Campenella paid Lynch \$20,000 in 2005 in an attempt to reward/influence Lynch regarding tax issues resulting from Campenella’s real estate deals.

The information alleges that Lynch took official actions that benefitted Campenella including: resolving a dispute over \$73,544.87 in delinquent real estate taxes on a property at 2500 Mifflin Street; reducing the proposed tax increase on a property at 323-27 N. 13th Street from \$3,000,000 to \$1,600,000; reducing the proposed tax increase on a property at 1101-13 Locust Street from \$4,600,000 to \$1,600,000; and resolving a tax assessment issue for a property at 5201 Old York Road. The resolution of these issues saved Campenella significant legal fees that he would have incurred if trying to negotiate, fight or appeal the proposed assessments.

“This case demonstrates, once again, that our office is committed to prosecuting not only public officials who abuse their positions but also those who seek to corrupt them,” said Meehan. “The amount of money isn’t as significant as the message that an illegal payment in an attempt to influence a public official sends to the community. People who seek to do business in the city need to know that the playing field is level or they won’t get in the game.”

If convicted, Lynch and Campenella each face a maximum sentence of 5 years imprisonment, followed by a 3 year period of supervised release, a \$250,000 fine and a \$100 special assessment.

¹An Indictment or Information is an accusation. A defendant is presumed innocent unless and until proven guilty.

INFORMATION REGARDING THE DEFENDANTS

NAME	ADDRESS	AGE OR DATE OF BIRTH
JAMES F. LYNCH	[REDACTED] Philadelphia, PA	1951
JAMES F. CAMPENELLA	[REDACTED] Philadelphia, PA	1951

The case was investigated by the Federal Bureau of Investigation and has been assigned to Assistant United States Attorney Michael A. Schwartz.

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