

RECEIVED
U.S. DISTRICT COURT
EASTERN DISTRICT OF LA.

2016 JUN 23 P 4: 14

WILLIAM W. BLEVINS
CLERK

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
EASTERN DISTRICT OF LOUISIANA

FELONY

**BILL OF INFORMATION FOR CONSPIRACY TO
COMMIT BRIBERY AND HONEST SERVICES WIRE FRAUD**

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

*

CRIMINAL NO.

v.

*

SECTION:

LESTER MORNAY

*

VIOLATION: 18 U.S.C. § 371

* * *

The United States Attorney charges that:

COUNT 1

**CONSPIRACY TO COMMIT BRIBERY
AND HONEST SERVICES WIRE FRAUD**

A. AT ALL TIMES MATERIAL HEREIN:

1. The Orleans Parish School Board ("OPSB") consists of seven (7) board members. Each member serves a four (4) year term.
2. Ira Thomas served as a member of the OPSB. As an OPSB member, Thomas shared responsibility for awarding OPSB contracts to private entities, including local businesses.
3. The OPSB was a local government entity within the State of Louisiana that received federal assistance in excess of \$10,000 annually from 2013 through 2015.
4. Armer Bright was an employee of the OPSB.

5. The defendant, **LESTER MORNAY**, was associated with Thomas as a consultant.

B. THE CONSPIRACY:

Beginning on or about September 2013, and continuing through January 2015, in the Eastern District of Louisiana, and elsewhere, the defendant, **LESTER MORNAY**, and others known and unknown to the United States Attorney, did knowingly and willfully combine, conspire and agree with each other:

1. To corruptly accept and agree to accept anything of value from any person, intending to be influenced and rewarded as an agent of an organization, government, or agency in connection with any business, transaction, and series of transactions involving anything of value of \$5,000 or more of an organization, government, or agency that receives more than \$10,000 under a federal program during a one-year period, in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 666(a)(1)(B); and

2. To devise and intend to devise a scheme and artifice to defraud the Parish of Orleans, and its citizens of their intangible right to receive the honest services of Thomas and Bright, through bribes and payoffs, involving the use of interstate wire transmissions, in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Sections 1343.

C. OVERT ACTS:

On or about the following dates, in furtherance of and to conceal the conspiracy and accomplish its purposes, the defendant, **LESTER MORNAY**, and others, committed the following overt acts, among others, in the Eastern District of Louisiana and elsewhere:

- 1) Beginning in or near September 2013, a cooperating witness ("CW") was approached by Bright, who offered CW a janitorial services contract that would soon be up for bid by the OPSB in exchange for a monetary payoff.
- 2) During the fall of 2013, the CW, Thomas, Bright, and at times **MORNAY**, met to discuss this contract. These conversations were recorded by the CW.

- 3) Ultimately, it was decided that the CW would pay \$5,000 to Thomas in the form of a "campaign contribution" in exchange for Thomas' and Bright's assistance regarding the janitorial services contract.
- 4) In December 2013, the CW delivered \$5,000 in cash to **MORNAY**, which was video recorded. **MORNAY** then delivered that cash payment to Thomas. Thomas and **MORNAY** agreed that **MORNAY** would deposit the money in **MORNAY**'s Private bank account and withdraw from that account a portion of the \$5,000 to be returned in cash to Thomas, which **MORNAY** did in fact do.
- 5) During the fall of 2014, Thomas and Bright discussed over recorded telephone conversations how to alter the bid process so that the CW would be given an improper advantage in bidding for the janitorial services contract, which was valued over \$5,000.
- 6) In completing this payoff and during recorded conversations between Thomas and Bright, Thomas caused electronic wire transmissions to travel outside of the State of Louisiana, Eastern District of Louisiana, and across state lines for the purpose of executing the scheme and artifice to defraud.
- 7) From in or near September 2013, and continuing through in or near January 2015, Thomas and Bright used their public offices and official capacities to obtain a corrupt illicit payment from the CW benefiting Thomas, Bright, and **MORNAY** in exchange for their help in the bid-process.

All in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 371.

NOTICE OF FORFEITURE

1. The allegation of Count 1 of this Bill of Information is realleged and incorporated by reference as though set forth fully herein for the purpose of alleging forfeiture to the United States of America pursuant to the provision of Title 18, United States Code, Sections 371 and 1343, made applicable through Title 28, United States Code, Section 2461(c).

2. As a result of the offense alleged in Count 1, defendant, **LESTER MORNAY**, shall forfeit to the United States pursuant to Title 18, United States Code, Sections 371, 666(a)(1), and 1343, made applicable through Title 28, United States Code, Section 2461(c), any and all property, real or personal, which constitutes or is derived from proceeds traceable to

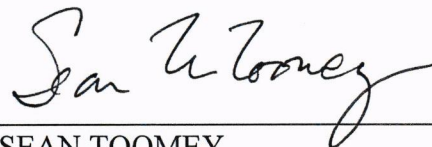
violations of Title 18, United States Code, Sections 371, 666(a)(1), and 1343.

3. If any of the property subject to forfeiture, as a result of any act or omission of the defendant:
 - a. cannot be located upon the exercise of due diligence;
 - b. has been transferred or sold to, or deposited with, a third person;
 - c. has been placed beyond the jurisdiction of the Court;
 - d. has been substantially diminished in value; or
 - e. has been commingled with other property which cannot be subdivided without difficulty;

it is the intent of the United States, pursuant to Title 21, United States Code, Section 853(p), to seek forfeiture of any other property of said defendant up to the value of the above forfeitable property.

All in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 981(a)(1)(c), made applicable through Title 28, United States Code, Section 2461(c).

KENNETH ALLEN POLITE JR.
UNITED STATES ATTORNEY



SEAN TOOMEY
Assistant United States Attorney

New Orleans, Louisiana
June 23, 2016

