

**IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA**

**UNITED STATES OF AMERICA** : **CRIMINAL NO** \_\_\_\_\_  
**v.** : **DATE FILED:** \_\_\_\_\_  
: **VIOLATION: 18 U.S.C. § 215(a)(2)**  
**JOSEPH VILLANTE** : **(bank bribery-1 count)**

**INFORMATION**

**COUNT ONE**

**THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY CHARGES THAT:**

At times material to this information:

1. Republic First Bank (now known as Republic Bank) was a financial institution based in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, the deposits of which were insured by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, certificate number 27332.
2. Defendant JOSEPH VILLANTE was a Vice President and Relationship Manager of Republic First Bank.
3. Person Number 1 known to the United States Attorney (“Person No. 1”) was a real estate developer who purchased and renovated properties for resale through various companies under his control, including Company Number 1 known to the United States Attorney (“Company No. 1”), which was involved in the purchase and renovation of a former motel in Wildwood, New Jersey, and Company Number 2 known to the United States Attorney (“Company No. 2”) which was involved in the purchase and renovation of a real estate project in the Fishtown section of Philadelphia.

4. Defendant Joseph Villante was the relationship manager at Republic First Bank who was assigned to the loan applications of Company No. 1 and Company No. 2.

5. From in or about January 2006 through in or about June 2006, in the Eastern District of Pennsylvania and elsewhere, defendant

**JOSEPH VILLANTE,**

an officer and employee of Republic First Bank, corruptly solicited a thing of value from Person No. 1, that is, approximately \$110,000, intending to be influenced or rewarded in connection with business or transactions of Republic First Bank, that is, for the assistance of defendant JOSEPH VILLANTE in obtaining loans of approximately \$3.4 million for Company No. 1 and approximately \$3 million for Company No. 2 from the bank.

In violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 215(a)(2).

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**ZANE DAVID MEMEGER**  
**United States Attorney**